

the thing is ellen bass analysis

The Thing Is: An In-Depth Ellen Bass Analysis

Introduction:

Have you ever felt the profound impact of a single, seemingly simple poem? Ellen Bass's "The Thing Is" possesses that power, resonating deeply with readers across generations. This isn't just a poem; it's a poignant exploration of grief, resilience, and the enduring beauty of the human spirit in the face of loss. This in-depth analysis will delve into the layers of meaning within Bass's masterpiece, examining its structure, themes, language, and overall impact. We'll unravel the subtle nuances and explore the reasons behind its widespread popularity and lasting resonance. Prepare to embark on a journey into the heart of this powerful and moving poem.

I. Deconstructing the Structure: Form and Function in "The Thing Is"

Ellen Bass masterfully utilizes a deceptively simple structure in "The Thing Is." The poem's free verse form mirrors the chaotic and unpredictable nature of grief itself. There's no rigid rhyme scheme or meter, reflecting the lack of control we often feel when confronting loss. The short, fragmented lines, often only a single phrase or clause, mimic the fragmented thoughts and emotions that accompany grief. The seemingly simple structure, however, belies a deep complexity. The repetition of the phrase "the thing is" acts as a powerful refrain, grounding the reader amidst the emotional turbulence of the poem. Each repetition builds upon the previous one, adding new layers of understanding and emphasizing the central theme of resilience. The lack of punctuation further enhances this sense of raw emotion, mirroring the unfiltered outpouring of feelings.

II. Exploring the Themes: Grief, Resilience, and the Acceptance of Impermanence

"The Thing Is" grapples head-on with the universal experience of grief. The poem doesn't shy away from the pain, the anger, the confusion, or the overwhelming sense of loss. However, it's not solely a poem about sorrow. At its core, "The Thing Is" is a powerful testament to the human capacity for resilience. Bass skillfully navigates the complex emotions associated with loss, demonstrating how even in the darkest moments, there is always a way forward. The poem gently encourages acceptance, not as resignation, but as a pathway towards healing. It recognizes the impermanence of life, acknowledging the inevitability of loss while highlighting the beauty and preciousness of what we have. This acceptance is not passive; it's an active choice, a conscious decision to embrace life fully, despite its inherent fragility.

III. Analyzing the Language: Figurative Language and Powerful Imagery

Bass's masterful use of language elevates "The Thing Is" beyond a simple expression of grief. The poem is rich with evocative imagery and figurative language that paints a vivid picture of both the emotional landscape and the external world. For example, the image of "the world is full of things that want to kill you" is jarring yet effective, highlighting the precariousness of life. Simultaneously, phrases like "the thing is to love the world" introduce a counterpoint, urging us to find beauty and purpose amidst the darkness. The contrasting images create a powerful tension, emphasizing the complex interplay of pain and joy, loss and resilience. Metaphors, such as the "terrible beauty" of life and death, add another layer of depth, suggesting the interconnectedness of these seemingly opposing forces.

IV. The Poem's Impact and Lasting Significance:

The enduring power of "The Thing Is" lies in its universal appeal. It speaks to the shared human experience of loss and the universal struggle to find meaning and purpose in the face of adversity. The poem's simplicity belies its profound message of hope and resilience. Its accessible language and emotionally resonant imagery allow it to connect with readers on a deeply personal level, regardless of their background or experiences. The poem's open-ended nature allows for individual interpretation, encouraging readers to reflect on their own experiences with loss and to find solace in the shared human experience. The poem transcends its initial context, becoming a timeless reflection on the complexities of life and the enduring strength of the human spirit. Its widespread use in grief counseling and therapeutic settings further attests to its profound impact on individuals grappling with loss.

V. A Proposed Book Outline: "Unpacking Ellen Bass's 'The Thing Is' and Beyond"

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed (Fictional Author)

Outline:

Introduction: A brief overview of Ellen Bass's life and work, focusing on the significance of "The Thing Is" within her broader poetic output.

Chapter 1: Structural Analysis: A deep dive into the poem's free verse form, examining its impact on the poem's meaning and emotional effect.

Chapter 2: Thematic Exploration: A comprehensive look at the poem's central themes—grief, resilience, acceptance, and the appreciation of life's beauty—with examples from the text.

Chapter 3: Language and Imagery: Analysis of Bass's use of figurative language, imagery, and metaphorical expressions to convey the poem's emotional depth.

Chapter 4: Contextualizing "The Thing Is": Exploring the poem within the broader context of Bass's other works and the contemporary poetic landscape.

Chapter 5: Critical Reception and Influence: Examining the critical reception of "The Thing Is" and its influence on subsequent poetry and literary criticism.

Chapter 6: "The Thing Is" in Practice: Exploring the poem's use in therapeutic settings and its impact on individuals coping with grief and loss.

Chapter 7: Interpretative Approaches: Examining different interpretations of the poem and encouraging readers to develop their own readings.

Conclusion: A synthesis of the key findings, emphasizing the lasting power and relevance of "The Thing Is."

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

Each chapter in the proposed book would delve deeply into the respective aspects of the poem, providing textual evidence, literary analysis, and contextual information. Chapter 1 would focus on the unconventional structure, exploring how the free verse and fragmented lines contribute to the poem's overall effect. Chapter 2 would analyze the nuanced themes, exploring how Bass weaves together grief and resilience, creating a powerful message of hope. Chapter 3 would meticulously dissect Bass's use of language, highlighting the significance of specific words, phrases, and images. Chapter 4 would place "The Thing Is" within the larger context of Bass's oeuvre and the broader trends in contemporary poetry. Chapter 5 would examine the poem's critical reception and its lasting impact on readers and other poets. Chapter 6 would explore the practical application of the poem in therapeutic contexts. Chapter 7 would encourage a variety of interpretive approaches, allowing for a diversity of perspectives. The conclusion would summarize the key findings and reiterate the poem's enduring significance.

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of Ellen Bass's "The Thing Is"? The central theme is the complex interplay of grief and resilience, emphasizing the capacity for acceptance and finding beauty even amidst loss.
1. What literary devices does Bass employ in "The Thing Is"? Bass utilizes free verse, repetition ("the thing is"), powerful imagery, metaphor, and contrasting images to convey her message.
1. How does the structure of the poem contribute to its meaning? The poem's fragmented structure reflects the fragmented nature of grief and loss, while the repetition provides grounding and a sense of continuity.
1. What makes "The Thing Is" so impactful? Its simple yet profound message of resilience and acceptance resonates deeply with readers on a personal and universal level.
1. Is "The Thing Is" suitable for use in therapeutic settings? Yes, its exploration of grief and resilience makes it valuable in therapeutic contexts to help people process loss and find healing.

1. What are some alternative interpretations of the poem? Some may interpret it as a call to action, urging readers to engage fully with life despite its hardships. Others may focus on the acceptance of impermanence.
1. How does "The Thing Is" compare to other poems about grief? While many poems address grief, "The Thing Is" stands out for its simplicity, directness, and focus on resilience alongside the pain.
1. What is the significance of the repeated phrase "the thing is"? This refrain acts as a grounding force, emphasizing the central message and guiding the reader through the emotional landscape.
1. Where can I find more information about Ellen Bass and her work? You can find her work on various online platforms, literary journals, and in her published poetry collections.

Related Articles:

1. Ellen Bass's Poetic Style: A Comprehensive Overview: This article explores the distinctive features of Bass's poetic style, including her use of imagery, metaphor, and free verse.
1. Grief and Resilience in Contemporary Poetry: This article examines how contemporary poets address grief and the human capacity for resilience, placing Bass's work within this broader context.
1. The Use of Poetry in Grief Therapy: This piece explores the therapeutic benefits of poetry, specifically focusing on how poems like "The Thing Is" can aid in the healing process.
1. Analyzing the Imagery in Ellen Bass's Poetry: A detailed analysis of Bass's use of imagery across her various poems, including "The Thing Is."

1. The Role of Repetition in Modern Poetry: This explores the use of repetition as a literary device, examining its effectiveness in creating emotional impact, as seen in "The Thing Is."
1. Ellen Bass's Feminist Perspective in Her Poetry: This article explores the feminist themes and perspectives present in Bass's poetry and how they relate to her themes of grief and resilience.
1. Comparing "The Thing Is" to Other Poems on Loss: This piece compares Bass's poem to other well-known poems that deal with loss and grief, highlighting their similarities and differences.
1. The Impact of Free Verse on Emotional Expression: This article explores the effectiveness of free verse in conveying raw emotion, as demonstrated in "The Thing Is."
1. Understanding the Metaphors in "The Thing Is": A detailed breakdown of the metaphors employed by Bass in her poem and their symbolic significance.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Indigo Ellen Bass, 2020-04-07 "A bold and passionate new collection... Intimacy is rarely conveyed as gracefully as in Bass's lustrous poems." —Booklist Indigo, the newest collection by Ellen Bass, merges elegy and praise poem in an exploration of life's complexities. Whether her subject is oysters, high heels, a pork chop, a beloved dog, or a wife's return to health, Bass pulls us in with exquisite immediacy. Her lush and precisely observed descriptions allow us to feel the sheer primal pleasure of being alive in our own "succulent skin," the pleasure of the gifts of hunger, desire, touch. In this book, joy meets regret, devotion meets dependence, and most importantly, the poet so in love with life and living begins to look for the point where the price of aging overwhelms the rewards of staying alive. Bass is relentless in her advocacy for the little pleasures all around her. Her gaze is both expansive and hyperfocused, celebrating (and eulogizing) each gift as it is given and taken, while also taking stock of the larger arc. She draws the lines between generations, both remembering her parents' lives and deaths and watching her own children grow into the space that she will leave behind. Indigo shows us the beauty of this cycle, while also documenting the deeply human urge to resist change and hang on to the life we have, even as it attempts to slip away.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Mules of Love Ellen Bass, 2013-12-20 Balancing heart-intelligent intimacy and surprising humor, the poems in Ellen Bass's *Mules of Love* illuminate the essential dynamics of our lives: family, community, sexual love, joy, loss, religion and death. The poems also explore the darker aspects of humanity—personal, cultural, historical and environmental violence—all of which are handled with compassion and grace. Bass's poetic gift is her ability to commiserate with others afflicted by similar hungers and grief. Her poem *Insomnia* concludes: may something/ comfort you—a mockingbird, a breeze, rain/ on the roof, Chopin's Nocturnes, the

thought/ of your child's birth, a kiss,/ or even me—in my chilly kitchen/ with my coat on—thinking of you. Marketing Plans: • National advertising • National media campaign • Advance reader copies • Course adoption mailing Author Tour: • Berkeley • Boston • Minneapolis • San Francisco • Santa Cruz Ellen Bass is co-author (with Laura Davis) of the best-selling *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* (HarperCollins 1988, 1994), which has sold more than one million copies and has been translated into nine languages. She has also published several volumes of poetry, and her poems have appeared in hundreds of journals and anthologies, including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Ms.*, *Double Take*, and *Field*. In 1980, Ms. Bass was awarded the Elliston Book Award for Poetry from the University of Cincinnati. Last year, she won Nimrod/Hardman's Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry, judged by Thomas Lux. She was nominated for a 2001 Pushcart Prize. She lives in Santa Cruz, where she has taught creative writing for 25 years. She has also taught writing workshops at many conferences nationally and in Mallorca, Spain.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Like a Beggar* Ellen Bass, 2015-10-15 Featured on NPR's *The Writer's Almanac* "Ellen Bass's new poetry collection, *Like a Beggar*, pulses with sex, humor and compassion."—*The New York Times* "Bass tries to convey everyday wonder on contemporary experiences of sex, work, aging, and war. Those who turn to poetry to become confidants for another's stories and secrets will not be disappointed."—*Publishers Weekly* "In her fifth book of poetry, Bass addresses everything from Saturn's rings and Newton's law of gravitation to wasps and Pablo Neruda. Her words are nostalgic, vivid, and visceral. Bass arrives at the truth of human carnality rooted in the extraordinary need and promise of the individual. Bass shows us that we are as radiant as we are ephemeral, that in transience glistens resilient history and the remarkable fluidity of connection. By the collection's end—following her musings on suicide and generosity, desire and repetition—it becomes lucidly clear that Bass is not only a poet but also a philosopher and a storyteller."—*Booklist* Ellen Bass brings a deft touch as she continues her ongoing interrogations of crucial moral issues of our times, while simultaneously delighting in endearing human absurdities. From the start of *Like a Beggar*, Bass asks her readers to relax, even though bad things are going to happen, because the bad gets mined for all manner of goodness. From *Another Story: After dinner, we're drinking scotch at the kitchen table. Janet and I just watched a NOVA special and we're explaining to her mother the age and size of the universe— the hundred billion stars in the hundred billion galaxies. Dotty lives at Dominican Oaks, making her way down the long hall. How about the sun? she asks, a little farmshit in the endlessness. I gather up a cantaloupe, a lime, a cherry, and start revolving this salad around the chicken carcass. This is the best scotch I ever tasted, Dotty says, even though we gave her the Maker's Mark while we're drinking Glendronach...* Ellen Bass's poetry includes *Like A Beggar* (Copper Canyon Press, 2014), *The Human Line* (Copper Canyon Press, 2007), which was named a Notable Book by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *Mules of Love* (BOA, 2002), which won the Lambda Literary Award. She co-edited (with Florence Howe) the groundbreaking *No More Masks! An Anthology of Poems by Women* (Doubleday, 1973). Her work has frequently been published in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, *The New Republic*, *The Sun* and many other journals. She is co-author of several non-fiction books, including *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* (HarperCollins, 1988, 2008) which has sold over a million copies and been translated into twelve languages. She is part of the core faculty of the MFA writing program at Pacific University.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Refusal* Jenny Molberg, 2020-02-12 In *Refusal*, her searing new collection of poetry, Jenny Molberg draws on elements of the uncanny—invented hospitals, the Demogorgon of Dungeons & Dragons, an Ophelia character who refuses suicide—to investigate trauma, addiction, and forces of oppression. Exposing the effects of widespread toxic misogyny, this confrontational volume examines societal, cultural, and personal gaslighting in situations of domestic abuse. As Molberg writes in "Loving Ophelia Is," "love and hate simultaneously is the trick of abuse / and the trick of abuse is a vexation of the mind." A sequence of epistolary poems looks to friendship as a safe haven from violent romantic relationships, while another series on a mother's struggle with addiction captures the complicated nature of a parent-child relationship affected by

alcoholism. Refusal seeks to break silences and to interrogate a cultural misogyny that weighs heavily on a woman's position in the world.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *The Human Line* Ellen Bass, 2007 Bass--co-author of million-seller *Courage to Heal*--says poetry is where she grieves, rages, prays.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Bonfire Opera* Danusha Lam ris, 2020-04-14 Sometimes the most compelling landscapes are the ones where worlds collide: where a desert meets the sea, a civilization, no-man's land. Here in *Bonfire Opera*, grief and Eros grapple in the same domain. A bullet-hole through the heart, a house full of ripe persimmons, a ghost in a garden. Coyotes cry out on the hill, and lovers find themselves kissing, "bee-stung, drunk" in the middle of road. Here, the dust is holy, as is the dark, unknown. These are poems that praise the impossible, wild world, finding beauty in its wake. Excerpt from "Bonfire Opera" In those days, there was a woman in our circle who was known, not only for her beauty, but also for taking off all her clothes and singing opera. And sure enough, as the night wore on and the stars emerged to stare at their reflections on the sea, and everyone had drunk a little wine, she began to disrobe, loose her great bosom and the tender belly, pale in the moonlight, the Viking hips, and to let her torn raiment fall to the sand as we looked up from the flames.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *The Courage to Heal* Ellen Bass, Laura Davis, 2002 Based on the experiences of hundreds of child abuse survivors, *The Courage to Heal* profiles victims who share the challenges and triumphs of their personal healing processes. Inspiring and comprehensive, it offers mental, emotional and physical support to all people who are in the process of rebuilding their lives. *The Courage to Heal* offers hope, encouragement and practical advice to every woman who was sexually abused as a child and answers some vital questions, including: -How do I know if I was sexually abused? -Where does the decision to heal start? -How can I break the silence and who will listen? -How can I re-build my self-esteem, intimacy and capacity to love? -What therapy, support groups, self-help programmes or organisations are available?

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Ten Poems to Say Goodbye* Roger Housden, 2012-02-21 In *Ten Poems to Say Goodbye*, the newest addition to the celebrated *Ten Poems* series, Roger Housden continues to highlight the magic of poetry, this time as it relates to personal loss. But while the selected poems in this volume may focus upon loss and grief, they also reflect solace, respite, and joy. A goodbye is an opportunity for kindness, for forgiveness, for intimacy, and ultimately for love and a deepening acceptance of life as it is rather than what it was. Goodbyes can be poignant, sorrowful, sometimes a relief, and—now and then—even an occasion for joy. They are always transitions that, when embraced, can be the door to a new life both for ourselves and for others. In this inspiring and consoling volume, Housden encourages readers to embrace poetry as a way of enabling us to better see and appreciate the beauty of the world around and within us.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* P draig  . Tuama, 2022-12-06 "Mesmerizing, magical, deeply moving." —Elif Shafak Expanding on the popular podcast of the same name from On Being Studios, *Poetry Unbound* offers immersive reflections on fifty powerful poems. In the tumult of our contemporary moment, poetry has emerged as an inviting, consoling outlet with a unique power to move and connect us, to inspire fury, tears, joy, laughter, and surprise. This generous anthology pairs fifty illuminating poems with poet and podcast host P draig   Tuama's appealing, unhurried reflections. With keen insight and warm personal anecdotes,   Tuama considers each poem's artistry and explores how its meaning can reach into our own lives. Focusing mainly on poets writing today,   Tuama engages with a diverse array of voices that includes Ada Lim n, Ilya Kaminsky, Margaret Atwood, Ocean Vuong, Layli Long Soldier, and Reginald Dwayne Betts. Natasha Trethewey meditates on miscegenation and Mississippi; Raymond Antrobus makes poetry out of the questions shot at him by an immigration officer; Mart n Espada mourns his father; Marie Howe remembers and blesses her mother's body; Aimee Nezhukumatathil offers comfort to her child-self. Through these wide-ranging poems,   Tuama guides us on an inspiring journey to reckon with self-acceptance, history, independence, parenthood, identity, joy, and resilience. For anyone who has wanted to try their hand at a

conversation with poetry but doesn't know where to start, Poetry Unbound presents a window through which to celebrate the art of being alive.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *The Moons of August* Danusha Lameris, 2014 Winner of the 2013 Autumn House Press Poetry Contest, selected by Naomi Shihab Nye. This stunning debut collection explores family culture, motherhood, and memory.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Ten Windows* Jane Hirshfield, 2017-02-21 A dazzling collection of essays on how the best poems work, from the master poet and popular essayist Poetry, Jane Hirshfield has said, is language that foments revolutions of being. In ten eloquent and highly original explorations, she unfolds some of the ways this is done--by the inclusion of hiddenness, paradox, and surprise; by a perennial awareness of the place of uncertainty in our lives; by language's own acts of discovery; by the powers of image, statement, music, and feeling to enlarge in every direction. Closely reading poems by Dickinson, Bashō, Szymborska, Cavafy, Heaney, Bishop, and Komunyakaa, among others, Hirshfield reveals how poetry's world-making takes place: word by charged word. By expanding what is imaginable and sayable, Hirshfield proposes, poems expand what is possible. *Ten Windows* restores us at every turn to a more precise, sensuous, and deepened experience of our shared humanity and of the seemingly limitless means by which that knowledge is both summoned and forged.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Poetry of Presence* Phyllis Cole-Dai, Ruby R. Wilson, 2017-09-05 A celebrated and diverse group of poets have contributed the beautiful selections that make up *Poetry of Presence*. This book of mindfulness poems provides a refuge of quiet clarity that is much needed in today's restless, chaotic world. Every reader will find favorites to share and to return to, again and again.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *A Treatise on Stars* Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge, 2020-02-25 An ethereal new collection that is "visceral with intellection" (David Lau) Winner of the Bollingen Prize Finalist for the National Book Award Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry Finalist for the PEN Open Book Award Finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Prize *A Treatise on Stars* extends Mei-mei Berssenbrugge's intensely phenomenological poetics to the fiery bodies in a "field of heaven...outside spacetime." Long, lyrical lines map a geography of interconnected, interdimensional intelligence that exists in all places and sentient beings. These are poems of deep listening and patient waiting, open to the cosmic loom, the channeling of daily experience and conversation, gestalt and angels, dolphins and a star-visitor beneath a tree. Family, too, becomes a type of constellation, a thought "a form of organized light." All of our sense are activated by Berssenbrugge's radiant lines, giving us a poetry of keen perception grounded in the physical world, where "days fill with splendor, and earth offers its pristine beauty to an expanding present."

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Freshmen* Tom Ellen, Lucy Ivison, 2019-06-18 A laugh-out-loud, realistic portrayal of a freshman year in college for fans of *Emergency Contact*, *Broad City*, and *The Bold Type*. Getting in is just the beginning. Phoebe can't wait to get to college. On her own, discovering new things, no curfew . . . she'll be free. And she'll be totally different: cooler, prettier, smarter . . . the perfect potential girlfriend. Convenient: the only person from her high school also going to York is her longtime crush, Luke. Luke didn't set out to redefine himself, but as soon as he arrives on campus, he finds himself dumping his long-term long-distance girlfriend. And the changes don't stop there. . . . Just when things start looking up (and Phoebe and Luke start hooking up), drama looms on the horizon. Rumors swirl about the Wall of Shame, a secret text chain run by Luke's soccer team, filled with compromising photos of girls. As the women on campus determine to expose the team and shut down the account, Luke and Phoebe find themselves grappling with confusing feelings and wondering how they'll ever make it through freshman year. Flirty, bawdy, sloppy, and buckets of fun. --Booklist

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Marvels of the Invisible* Jenny Molberg, 2017 Poetry. Winner of the Berkshire Prize, Tupelo Press's First/Second Book Award, selected by Jeffrey Harrison. In this award-winning debut collection, the smallest things of the world bear enormous emotive weight. For Jenny Molberg, the invisible and barely visible are forms of memory, articulations of our place in the

cosmos. Parsing the intersections between science and personal history, and contemplating archival letters from 17th- and 18th- century scientists along with new studies in biological phenomena, Molberg's poems examine complexities of relationships with parents and the faultiness of certainty about earthly permanence. In the title poem, a child begins by looking at an ant through a microscope, and later, as a husband and father, with the same discerning eye he recognizes the cancer in his wife's breast. MARVELS OF THE INVISIBLE sounds the depths of both grief and amazement, two kinds of awareness inseparably entwined.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Ordinary Beast Nicole Sealey, 2017-09-12 ONE OF PUBLISHERS WEEKLY'S TOP 10 POETRY BOOKS OF FALL 2017 NPR'S MOST ANTICIPATED POETRY BOOKS OF 2017 A striking, full-length debut collection from Virgin Islands-born poet Nicole Sealey The existential magnitude, deep intellect, and playful subversion of St. Thomas-born, Florida-raised poet Nicole Sealey's work is restless in its empathic, succinct examination and lucid awareness of what it means to be human. The ranging scope of inquiry undertaken in Ordinary Beast—at times philosophical, emotional, and experiential—is evident in each thrilling twist of image by the poet. In brilliant, often ironic lines that move from meditation to matter of fact in a single beat, Sealey's voice is always awake to the natural world, to the pain and punishment of existence, to the origins and demises of humanity. Exploring notions of race, sexuality, gender, myth, history, and embodiment with profound understanding, Sealey's is a poetry that refuses to turn a blind eye or deny. It is a poetry of daunting knowledge.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: I Never Told Anyone Ellen Bass, Louise Thornton, Jude Brister, 1991-04-10 Recommended reading and audiovisuals

the thing is ellen bass analysis: The Football Girl Thatcher Heldring, 2017-04-04 For every athlete or sports fanatic who knows she's just as good as the guys. This is for fans of The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen, Grace, Gold, and Glory by Gabrielle Douglass and Breakaway: Beyond the Goal by Alex Morgan. The summer before Caleb and Tessa enter high school, friendship has blossomed into a relationship . . . and their playful sports days are coming to an end. Caleb is getting ready to try out for the football team, and Tessa is training for cross-country. But all their structured plans derail in the final flag game when they lose. Tessa doesn't want to end her career as a loser. She really enjoys playing, and if she's being honest, she likes it even more than running cross-country. So what if she decided to play football instead? What would happen between her and Caleb? Or between her two best friends, who are counting on her to try out for cross-country with them? And will her parents be upset that she's decided to take her hobby to the next level? This summer Caleb and Tessa figure out just what it means to be a boyfriend, girlfriend, teammate, best friend, and someone worth cheering for. "A great next choice for readers who have enjoyed Catherine Gilbert Murdock's Dairy Queen and Miranda Kenneally's Catching Jordan."—SLJ "Fast-paced football action, realistic family drama, and sweet romance...[will have] readers looking for girl-powered sports stories...find[ing] plenty to like."—Booklist "Tessa's ferocious competitiveness is appealing."—Kirkus Reviews "[The Football Girl] serve[s] to illuminate the appropriately complicated emotions both of a young romance and of pursuing a dream. Heldring writes with insight and restraint."—The Horn Book

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Devices and Desires P. D. James, 2011-10-05 National Bestseller. Featuring the famous Commander Adam Dalgliesh, Devices and Desires is a thrilling and insightfully crafted novel of fallible people caught in a net of secrets, ambitions, and schemes on a lonely stretch of Norfolk coastline. Commander Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard has just published a new book of poems and has taken a brief respite from publicity on the remote Larksoken headland on the Norfolk coast in a converted windmill left to him by his aunt. But he cannot so easily escape murder. A psychotic strangler of young women is at large in Norfolk, and getting nearer to Larksoken with every killing. And when Dalgliesh discovers the murdered body of the Acting Administrative Officer on the beach, he finds himself caught up in the passions and dangerous secrets of the headland community and in one of the most baffling murder cases of his career.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Twice Alive Forrest Gander, 2021-05-04 An exciting new

book about renewal by the winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry In the searing poems of his new collection, *Twice Alive*, the Pulitzer Prize-winner Forrest Gander addresses the exigencies of our historical moment and the intimacies, personal and environmental, that bind us to others and to the world. Drawing from his training in geology and his immersion in Sangam literary traditions, Gander invests these poems with an emotional intensity that illuminates our deep-tangled interrelations. While conducting fieldwork with a celebrated mycologist, Gander links human intimacy with the transformative collaborations between species that compose lichens. Throughout *Twice Alive*, Gander addresses personal and ecological trauma—several poems focus on the devastation wrought by wildfires in California where he lives—but his tone is overwhelmingly celebratory. *Twice Alive* is a book charged with exultation and tenderness.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Ten Poems for Difficult Times* Roger Housden, 2018-02-10 In his bestselling *Ten Poems* series, Roger Housden has shown an uncanny ability to choose and discuss poems that strike at the core of readers' concerns and needs. In this new volume, ten extraordinary poems, along with Housden's incisive essays, bring heartfelt insight and broad perspective both to our personal challenges and to our cultural and collective malaise. *Ten Poems for Difficult Times* is the perfect gift for oneself or for anyone in need of solace and inspiration. *Ten Poems for Difficult Times* "Good Bones" by Maggie Smith "The Thing Is" by Ellen Bass "The Quarrel" by Conrad Aiken "Cutting Loose" by William Stafford "Rain Light" by W. S. Merwin "How the Light Comes" by Jan Richardson "Now You Know the Worst" by Wendell Berry "A Brief for the Defense" by Jack Gilbert "It's This Way" by Nazim Hikmet "Annunciation" by Marie Howe

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *In the Volcano's Mouth* Miriam Bird Greenberg, 2016-11-18 Winner of the 2015 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize Miriam Bird Greenberg's stunning first collection, which roves across a lush, haunting rural America both real and imagined, observed from railyards and roadsides, evokes the world of myth (I'd spent my childhood / in a house made of bees; on hot days honey // dripped through cracks in the ceiling, she writes). Yet these capacious, exquisitely tensioned poems are rooted in Greenberg's experiences hitchhiking and hopping freight trains across North America, or draw from her informal interviews with contemporary nomads, hobos, and others living on society's edges. Beneath their surface runs a current of violence, whether at the hands of fate or men: she writes Everyone knows // what happens to women // who hitchhike, constantly // trying a door to the other world made of lake / bottom or low forest, abandoned house // even wild animals / have rejected. The result is a queering of *On the Road*, a feminist Frank Stanford at once vulnerable and canny. Richly textured, *In the Volcano's Mouth* is an extraordinary portrait of life on the enchanted margins.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Hope Matters* Lee Maracle, Columpa Bobb, Tania Carter, 2019 *Hope Matters*, written by multiple award-winner Lee Maracle, in collaboration with her daughters Columpa Bobb and Tania Carter, focuses on the journey of Indigenous people from colonial beginnings to reconciliation. Maracle states that the book, is also about the journey of myself and my two daughters. During their youth, Bobb and Carter wrote poetry with their mother, and eventually they all decided that one day they would write a book together. This book is the result of that dream. Written collaboratively by all three women, the poems in *Hope Matters* blend their voices together into a shared song of hope and reconciliation.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *The Path to Kindness* James Crews, 2022-04-12 James Crews' new collection, *The Path to Kindness*, offers 100 deeply felt and relatable poems from a diverse range of voices--

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *The Practicing Poet* Diane Lockward, 2018 Organized into ten sections with each devoted to a poetic concept, *The Practicing Poet* begins with *Discovering New Material*, *Finding the Best Words*, *Making Music*, *Working with Sentences and Line Breaks*, *Crafting Surprise*, and *Achieving Tone*. The concepts become progressively more sophisticated, moving on to *Dealing with Feelings*, *Transforming Your Poems*, and *Rethinking and Revising*. The final section, *Publishing Your Book*, covers manuscript organization, book promotion, and presentation of a good public reading. The book includes thirty brief craft essays, each followed by a model poem and

analysis of the poem's craft, then a prompt based on the poem. Ten recyclable bonus prompts are also included. Ten Top Tips lists are each loaded with poetry wisdom from an accomplished poet. The Practicing Poet pushes poets beyond the basics and encourages the continued reading, learning, and writing of poetry. It is suitable as a textbook in the classroom, a guidebook in a workshop, or an at-home tutorial for the practicing poet working independently. The craft essays, poems, and top tips lists include the work of 113 contemporary poets.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Eat the Mouth That Feeds You* Carribean Fragoza, 2021-03-30 WINNER OF THE WHITING AWARD PEN AMERICA LITERARY FINALIST Recommended by Héctor Tobar as an essential Los Angeles book in the New York Times. Carribean Fragoza's debut collection of stories reside in the domestic surreal, featuring an unusual gathering of Latinx and Chicanx voices from both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, and universes beyond. *Eat the Mouth That Feeds You* is an accomplished debut with language that has the potential to affect the reader on a visceral level, a rare and significant achievement from a forceful new voice in American literature.—Kali Fajardo-Anstine, New York Times Book Review, and author of *Sabrina and Corina* Carribean Fragoza's imperfect characters are drawn with a sympathetic tenderness as they struggle against circumstances and conditions designed to defeat them. A young woman returns home from college, only to pick up exactly where she left off: a smart girl in a rundown town with no future. A mother reflects on the pain and pleasures of being inexorably consumed by her small daughter, whose penchant for ingesting grandma's letters has extended to taking bites of her actual flesh. A brother and sister watch anxiously as their distraught mother takes an ax to their old furniture, and then to the backyard fence, until finally she attacks the family's beloved lime tree. Victories are excavated from the rubble of personal hardship, and women's wisdom is brutally forged from the violence of history that continues to unfold on both sides of the US-Mexico border. *Eat the Mouth that Feeds You* renders the feminine grotesque at its finest.—Myriam Gurba, author of *Mean* *Eat the Mouth that Feeds You* will establish Fragoza as an essential and important new voice in American fiction.—Héctor Tobar, author of *The Barbarian Nurseries* Fierce and feminist, *Eat the Mouth That Feeds You* is a soul-quaking literary force.—Dontaná McPherson-Joseph, *The Foreword*, *Starred Review . . . a work of power and a darkly brilliant talisman that enlarges in necessary ways the feminist, Latinx, and Chicanx canons.—Wendy Ortiz, *Alta Magazine* Fragoza's surreal and gothic stories, focused on Latinx, Chicanx, and immigrant women's voices, are sure to surprise and move readers.—Zoe Ruiz, *The Millions* This collection of visceral, often bone-chilling stories centers the liminal world of Latinos in Southern California while fraying reality at its edges. Full of horror and wonder.—Kirkus Reviews, *Starred Review Fragoza's debut collection delivers expertly crafted tales of Latinx people trying to make sense of violent, dark realities. Magical realism and gothic horror make for effective stylistic entryways, as Fragoza seamlessly blurs the lines between the corporeal and the abstract.—Publishers Weekly The magic realism of *Eat the Mouth that Feeds You* is thoroughly worked into the fabric of the stories themselves . . . a wonderful debut.—Brian Evenson, author of *Song for the Unraveling of the World*

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Eminent Hipsters Donald Fagen, 2013-10-22 A witty, candid, sharply written memoir by the cofounder of Steely Dan In his entertaining debut as an author, Donald Fagen—musician, songwriter, and cofounder of Steely Dan—reveals the cultural figures and currents that shaped his artistic sensibility, as well as offering a look at his college days and a hilarious account of life on the road. Fagen presents the “eminent hipsters” who spoke to him as he was growing up in a bland New Jersey suburb in the early 1960s; his colorful, mind-expanding years at Bard College, where he first met his musical partner Walter Becker; and the agonies and ecstasies of a recent cross-country tour with Michael McDonald and Boz Scaggs. Acclaimed for his literate lyrics and complex arrangements as a musician, Fagen here proves himself a sophisticated writer with his own distinctive voice.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: The Pillars of the Earth Ken Follett, 2010-06-29 #1 New York Times Bestseller Oprah's Book Club Selection The “extraordinary . . . monumental masterpiece” (Booklist) that changed the course of Ken Follett's already phenomenal career—and begins where its

prequel, *The Evening and the Morning*, ended. "Follett risks all and comes out a clear winner," extolled *Publishers Weekly* on the release of *The Pillars of the Earth*. A departure for the bestselling thriller writer, the historical epic stunned readers and critics alike with its ambitious scope and gripping humanity. Today, it stands as a testament to Follett's unassailable command of the written word and to his universal appeal. *The Pillars of the Earth* tells the story of Philip, prior of Kingsbridge, a devout and resourceful monk driven to build the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has known . . . of Tom, the mason who becomes his architect—a man divided in his soul . . . of the beautiful, elusive Lady Aliena, haunted by a secret shame . . . and of a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state and brother against brother. A spellbinding epic tale of ambition, anarchy, and absolute power set against the sprawling medieval canvas of twelfth-century England, this is Ken Follett's historical masterpiece.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *In Praise of the Unfinished* Julia Hartwig, 2012-11-07 Hailed by Czeslaw Milosz as "the grande dame of Polish poetry" and named "one of the foremost Polish poets of the twentieth century" by Ryszard Kapuscinski, Julia Hartwig has long been considered the gold standard of poetry in her native Poland. With this career-spanning collection, we finally have a book of her work in English. The tragic story of the last century flows naturally through Hartwig's poems. She evokes the husbands who returned silent from battle ("What woman was told about the hell at Monte Cassino?") and asks, "Why didn't I dance on the Champs-Élysées / when the crowd cheered the end of the war? . . . Why was I fated to be on the main street of Lublin / watching regiments with red stars enter the city." But there is also a welcoming of new experience in her verse, a sense that life, finally, is too beautiful to condemn. She seeks a higher peace, urging us to hear other voices: "an ermine's cry, moan of a dove, / complaint of an owl—that remind us / the hardship of solitude is measured out equally." Hartwig's compassionate spirit in the face of destruction and suffering, her apparent need to live in the moment, make her poems monumental and deeply touching and the introduction of her work here long overdue. *Return to My Childhood Home* Amid a dark silence of pines—the shouts of young birches calling each other. Everything is as it was. Nothing is as it was. Speak to me, Lord of the child. Speak, innocent terror! To understand nothing. Each time in a different way, from the first cry to the last breath. Yet happy moments come to me from the past, like bridesmaids carrying oil lamps.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Several Short Sentences About Writing* Verlyn Klinkenborg, 2013-04-09 An indispensable and distinctive book that will help anyone who wants to write, write better, or have a clearer understanding of what it means for them to be writing, from widely admired writer and teacher Verlyn Klinkenborg. Klinkenborg believes that most of our received wisdom about how writing works is not only wrong but an obstacle to our ability to write. In *Several Short Sentences About Writing*, he sets out to help us unlearn that "wisdom"—about genius, about creativity, about writer's block, topic sentences, and outline—and understand that writing is just as much about thinking, noticing, and learning what it means to be involved in the act of writing. There is no gospel, no orthodoxy, no dogma in this book. Instead it is a gathering of starting points in a journey toward lively, lucid, satisfying self-expression.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Things I Didn't Know I Loved* Nâzım Hikmet, Randy Blasing, Mutlu Konuk Blasing, 1975

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *The Strategic Poet* Diane Lockward, 2021 *The Strategic Poet: Honing the Craft* focuses on the craft of poetry and is based on the belief that craft can be taught and the best teacher of craft is a good poem. This book assumes a knowledgeable reader, that is, one who already knows the language of poetry and already practices the craft. This book is organized into thirteen sections, each one devoted to a specific poetic strategy. While only thirteen strategies are used for organizational purposes, the reader will find many additional strategies referred to and discussed within the sections. There is a progression from one section to the next, but each section also stands alone, so the reader or teacher can follow the order of the Contents or move about freely among the sections. Each section begins with a Craft Talk solicited from a well-known poet with a clear mastery of craft. Each Craft Talk is followed by Model Poems and

Prompts. Each Model Poem is followed by an analysis of its craft elements, especially its use of the section's strategy. One Model Poem in each section is followed by a Commentary from the poet who wrote the poem and is focused on a particular strategy used in the poem. Each of the thirty-six Prompts is followed by two Sample Poems written to the prompts. These seventy-two poems demonstrate that the prompts are not mere exercises and can produce terrific poems. Each section ends with three Bonus Prompts. There thirty-nine additional prompts were contributed by thirteen contemporary poets. These short prompts provide additional practice with the strategies, can be used multiple times, and should lead to some good poems. Contributors include 114 of our best contemporary poets. This book is suitable for use by poets working independently, by poets in writing groups, and by teachers in the classroom.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Surviving Sexual Violence Liz Kelly, 2013-04-26 Women's awareness of the threat and reality of sexual violence is now perhaps more than ever publicly acknowledged. Yet this fact continues to be almost wholly ignored. This new study, based on in-depth interviews with 60 women, is the first to cover the experience of a range of forms of sexual violence over women's lifetimes. Drawing on feminist theory, developing a critique of male research and quoting extensively from the women interviewed, it develops feminist thought in several key areas: the similarities and differences between forms of sexual violence; the ways women define their experiences; and the strategies women use in resisting, coping with and surviving sexual violence. The author stresses the importance for all women of recognizing the incidents of sexual violence in their lives and seeing themselves and other women as survivors rather than victims. In highlighting the ways in which the media, the criminal justice system and even the helping professions contribute to the trivialization of sexual violence, she demonstrates the necessity of women organizing collectively to end this suffering.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: The Art of Losing Kevin Young, 2013-05-05 "Kevin Young has thoughtfully gathered many of these sorrowful perambulations and grievous plummets." -Billy Collins The Art of Losing is the first anthology of its kind, delivering poetry with a purpose. Editor Kevin Young has introduced and selected 150 devastatingly beautiful poems that embrace the pain and heartbreak of mourning. Divided into five sections (Reckoning, Remembrance, Rituals, Recovery, and Redemption), with poems by some of our most beloved poets as well as the best of the current generation of poets, The Art of Losing is the ideal gift for a loved one in a time of need and for use by therapists, ministers, rabbis, and palliative care workers who tend to those who are experiencing loss. Among the poets included: Elizabeth Alexander, W. H. Auden, Amy Clampitt, Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson, Louise Gluck, Ted Hughes, Galway Kinnell, Kenneth Koch, Philip Larkin, Li-Young Lee, Philip Levine, Marianne Moore, Sharon Olds, Mary Oliver, Robert Pinsky, Adrienne Rich, Theodore Roethke, Anne Sexton, Wallace Stevens, Dylan Thomas, Derek Walcott, and James Wright.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: The Poetry of Impermanence, Mindfulness, and Joy John Brehm, 2017-06-06 Over 125 poetic companions, from Basho to Billy Collins, Saigyō to Shakespeare. The Poetry of Impermanence, Mindfulness, and Joy received the Spirituality & Practice Book Award for 50 Best Spiritual Books in 2017 by Spirituality and Practice Website. The poems expertly gathered here offer all that one might hope for in spiritual companionship: wisdom, compassion, peacefulness, good humor, and the ability to both absorb and express the deepest human emotions of grief and joy. The book includes a short essay on "Mindful Reading" and a meditation on sound from editor John Brehm—helping readers approach the poems from an experiential, non-analytical perspective and enter into the mindful reading of poetry as a kind of meditation. The Poetry of Impermanence, Mindfulness, and Joy offers a wide-ranging collection of 129 ancient and modern poems unlike any other anthology on bookshelves today. It uniquely places Buddhist poets like Han Shan, Tu Fu, Saigyō, Ryōkan, Bashō, Issa, and others alongside modern Western poets one would not expect to find in such a collection—poets like Wallace Stevens, Robert Frost, Elizabeth Bishop, William Stafford, Denise Levertov, Jack Gilbert, Ellen Bass, Billy Collins, and more. What these poems have in common, no matter whether they are explicitly Buddhist, is that all reflect the

essential truths the Buddha articulated 2,500 years ago. The book provides an important poetic complement to the many prose books on mindfulness practice—the poems here both reflect and embody the dharma in ways that can't be matched by other modes of writing. It's unique features include an introduction that discusses the themes of impermanence, mindfulness, and joy and explores the relationship between them. Biographical notes place the poets in historical context and offer quotes and anecdotes to help readers learn about the poets' lives.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale* Lynda Rutledge, 2012-04-26 SOON TO BE CLAIRE DARLING—A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING CATHERINE DENEUE! When a wealthy woman decides to sell all of her worldly possessions, she unearths the secrets of her family's past in this charming debut. On the last day of the millennium, sassy Faith Bass Darling, the richest old lady in Bass, Texas, decides to have a garage sale. With help from a couple of neighborhood boys, Faith lugs her priceless Louis XV elephant clock, countless Tiffany lamps, and everything else in her nineteenth-century mansion out onto her long, sloping lawn. Why is a recluse of twenty years suddenly selling off her dearest possessions? Because God told her to. As the townspeople grab up five generations of heirlooms, everyone drawn to the sale—including Faith's long-lost daughter—finds that the antiques not only hold family secrets but also inspire some of life's most important questions: Do our possessions possess us? What are we without our memories? Is there life after death or second chances here on earth? And is Faith really selling that Tiffany lamp for \$1? READERS GUIDE INCLUDED

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *A Traveler from Altruria, Romance* William Dean 1837-1920 Howells, Ed, 2016-05-05 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: Bright Dead Things Ada Limón, 2019-02-07 'Bright Dead Things buoyed me in this dismal year. I'm thankful for this collection, for its wisdom and generosity, for its insistence on holding tight to beauty even as we face disintegration and destruction.' Celeste Ng, author of *Everything I Never Told You* A book of bravado and introspection, of feminist swagger and harrowing loss, *Bright Dead Things* considers how we build our identities out of place and human contact - tracing in intimate detail the ways the speaker's sense of self both shifts and perseveres as she moves from New York City to rural Kentucky, loses a dear parent, ages past the capriciousness of youth and falls in love. In these extraordinary poems Ada Limón's heart becomes a 'huge beating genius machine' striving to embrace and understand the fullness of the present moment. 'I am beautiful. I am full of love. I am dying,' the poet writes. Building on the legacies of forebears such as Frank O'Hara, Sharon Olds and Mark Doty, Limón's work is consistently generous, accessible, and 'effortlessly lyrical' (New York Times) - though every observed moment feels complexly thought, felt and lived.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Free Your Mind* Ellen Bass, Kate Kaufman, 1996-05-10 In a groundbreaking book that weaves together their professional experience with the lively, poignant, immediate voices of dozens of gay and lesbian youths, the authors provide an invaluable step-by-step guide to empowering gay youth to understand, accept and celebrate their sexual orientation. Photos.

the thing is ellen bass analysis: *Cosmopolitan Greetings* Allen Ginsberg, 1995-03-17 Half a century after founding the Beat Generation, Allen Ginsberg has written this powerful collection of

poems that are suffused with a range of emotional colors that gives Ginsberg's work an elegiac tone.

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