

The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writing

FRÉDÉRIQUE SPILL

The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writing examines how the poet's language bristles with a variety of carefully registered sensory perceptions detailing minute objects, some of which, Frédérique Spill argues, less poetic minds than his might consider insignificant. Through its eleven chapters, each devoted to a different book in order of publication, Spill's study shows how prone Rash is to making violence cohabit with beauty, thus imbuing the dreariest situations with a poignant brightness, an unlikely luminescence.

The overall discussion highlights the evolution of Rash's writing toward a dense inventiveness and a keen poetic awareness of the workings of the natural world, which reaches a peak with the publication of *Above the Waterfall*. However, readers more particularly interested in one specific book may consult chapters separately. The volume concludes with three interviews with Rash, respectively focusing on novels, short stories, and poetry.

Through close readings and systematic observations of Ron Rash's writing, Spill hopes to illuminate these seemingly insignificant details. They somehow contain larger elements—textual components that could remain unnoticed but might very well prove fraught with significance.

FRÉDÉRIQUE SPILL is associate professor of American literature at the University of Picardy—Jules Verne in Amiens, France, where she also supervises a research group. She is the author of *L'idiotie dans l'œuvre de William Faulkner*. Spill coedited *The Wagon Moves: New Essays on As I Lay Dying* and contributed to *Critical Insights: The Sound and the Fury*, *Faulkner at Fifty: Tutors and Tyros*, *Conversations with Ron Rash*, and *Summoning the Dead*.

“Spill has exciting insights into the work of Ron Rash. We who have admired Rash's poetry and fiction . . . are especially delighted to see the appreciation his work has won abroad.”

—ROBERT MORGAN, *NEW YORK TIMES*
BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *GAP CREEK*

“a major and original contribution to scholarly analysis of Rash's work. Spill's monograph brims with new insights into Rash's fiction and poetry”

—JOHN LANG, EMORY &
HENRY COLLEGE

“a work possessing its own radiance, free of obfuscating theory, and full of the sort of precise observations that animate Rash's work.”

—MARK POWELL, AUTHOR OF *FIREBIRD AND SMALL TREASONS*

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