*The Night I Burned My Origami Skin*, reviewed by Devon Crook

by Catalina Florescu

Anaphora Literary Press

*The Night I Burned My Origami Skin* is a book of short poetry by Catalina Florescu from Anaphora Literary Press. Although many of these poems are very brief, some barely making it to thirty words, most are impactful and relatable. Some focus on relationships gone awry while others focus on the feelings surrounding the death of a loved one.

The structure of Florescu’s poems is diverse and in some cases very unique. In “Editing,” for example, the majority of the poem is crossed out, leaving only a few words that do not have a line through them. At the bottom of the poem, these remaining words created a completely separate, three line poem. This is unique, an effective and engaging technique.

Florescu puts many poems in here that are relatable to most readers. Poems like “Criminal,” “I You (Triangulate) Death of a Friend,” “I You (One),” “Windowpane,” and “I You (Honeycombs)” all address relationship matters. “Blank Page,” shows the social leanings of the collection, as it tells of a plane crash and of the many people that die because of the tragedy; more than that, “Blank Page” addresses the notion of not giving up hope. “A little girl holds a firefly jar. / She does not want to let go of it. / Neither should I of hope.”

*The Night I Burned My Origami Skin* is a well put-together book of poetry. All the pieces seem to complement one another without necessarily being related to each other. These works are relatable, easy to understand, and often get at a deeper meaning. Any readers of contemporary poetry will find it a thoughtful and accessible collection.