

*Nobody Dancing*, by Cheryl Quimba (Publishing Genius Press, Dec 2015)

reviewed by Lucy Diaz

*Nobody Dancing*, by Cheryl Quimba, is about life and by that I mean some poems are about people, events and society. Cheryl Quimba lives in Buffalo, New York. She received her MFA in poetry from Purdue University. She is the author of Chapbook *Scattered trees grow in some tundra* and co-author, with Joe Hall, of the chapbook *May I softly walk: The Santa Fee Journals*.

*Nobody Dancing* is broken up into 5 parts: I, II, III, &, and IV. The whole collection of poems repeats the overall theme of life with some commentary on it in the form of poetry. She focuses on nice lines in the poem "The millennium so far has been difficult": "The trouble with knives/ Is I can't see you laughing/ The road doubles back means/ Science is feeding us/ Lies" (Quimba 14). These lines dictate Quimba utilizing poetic tools such as enjambment effectively because it adds rhythm and double meaning. This poem is also commenting on society in reference to science. Not only is she using poetic tools but she is evoking meaning, by taking the first 2 words of the first line and one word from the rest of the lines from the example above you get: "The trouble Is That Science Lies." In part II of the book she makes the attempt at innovation. People have written poems about paintings but what about a blank photograph. Through these blank photographs she is being innovative. Because these photographs are blank the poem/ caption that follows is very image based. "Captions to twenty-four blank photographs" (Quimba 25). Another Poetic tool Quimba uses effectively is form. In the poem *Marriage* she uses form to allow her poem to look like an "M" (Quimba 61).

The book is effectively accomplishing innovation and breaking ground on the topic of life. I recommend this book to people who like to explore and think about meaning. Appreciators of form diction and themes of life would enjoy this book.