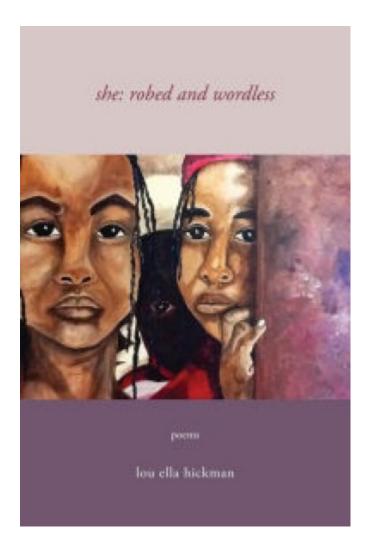
she: robed and wordless, by Lou Ella Hickman

Books in the July 6, 2016 issue

In Review



she

By Lou Ella Hickman Press 53

This slim volume of poetry gives voice to the women of the Bible, named and unnamed. Lou Ella Hickman, a nun and spiritual director, vividly depicts human nature with resignation, empathy, and expectation. Gomer, Hosea's wife, sighs:

"marriages are often tangled affairs / like vines overgrown, dying." Ruth says of Naomi: "life like bitter herbs / made me need her loneliness." Peter and Andrew's mother laments: "they're gone / both of them / like moths to a candle." But alongside the stark realism there is joy, a sense of gratitude. Mary recalls after Joseph's death that "he, too, was my treasure / . . . such was our secret." The woman on the road to Emmaus rejoices as "absence breaks like bread into presence / our sleepwalking wakes." Like a "whisper in the shimmering silence," hope is quietly tangible.