

## Almost Human: Poems (Paperback)



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*(Lorenz Vandervort)*

**ALMOST HUMAN: POEMS (PAPERBACK)****DOWNLOAD**

Tupelo Press, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Poetry. California Studies. Winner of the Dorset Prize, selected by Edward Hirsch. As in a profound love affair, Thomas Centolella's new poems register attraction, delight, expectations fulfilled and foiled, and moments of great feeling cherished and/or lamented. Employing the vividness of narrative without yielding to its linear strictures and overly familiar tonalities, many of the first-person protagonists in ALMOST HUMAN: POEMS are mysterious figures at once engaging and idiosyncratic, even outright eccentric. Often betwixt and between, neither here nor there, they are uncertain of actually getting anywhere. ALMOST HUMAN: POEMS documents the restive life-force incarnated in an endangered species--our own--and charts the movement of the self between spirit and human, recalling the idea, attributed to Teilhard de Chardin, that we aren't human beings having a spiritual experience but spiritual beings having a human experience. Thomas Centolella is one of those poets whose deeply thoughtful poems are best read on a quiet evening beneath stars. Philosophical without being didactic, they unfold, usually with the help of a chance human encounter, a sight, smell or sound emanating from the city, all while musing on an old master's lost notion. Quite simply, I love his meandering poems which twist and turn as if walking a labyrinth of back streets. ALMOST HUMAN is an unusual combination of urban and spiritual, the eternal and the every day. --Dorianne Laux.

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