Yasmeen Makarem. *Salwa*. (Pittsburgh: RoseDog Books, 2012). ISBN 978-1-4349-3066-8. 41 pp.

Yasmeen Makarem is a young Lebanese poet who has lived through the destruction brought upon her country by war and the paralysis of sectarian strife. Forty-one compelling poems tread the flickering boundary between the personal and political realms, with each interrogating the turmoil of simultaneous existence within both. ‘If only someone would have told her what to expect/ That shiny marbles have two sides, both are fake’. ‘Salwa’ means solace, and the reader is persuaded by the elegance of the poetic voice in its search.

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