



SOUTHWEST FESTIVAL *of the*  
**WRITTEN WORD**

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Silver City, NM

Book Reviews: Delving Into Works By Upcoming  
Southwest Festival Of The Written Word Guests

Reviewed by Teri Matelson

## AUDREY: A BOOK OF LOVE *by Beate Sigriddaughter*

**Follow your heart** — age-old and well-meaning advice. We give it, we hear it and many times we do just that. Beate Sigriddaughter's novel *Audrey: A Book of Love* opens that harrowing path for Andrea to travel with a puzzle of people — in that way puzzle pieces keep us looking, sorting, searching and waiting for that beautiful picture to stare back at us.

A small apartment shared by roommates Kay and Andrea, a crush of people, candles, musicians and artists, the start of the 1980s. And there is Audrey — an older woman, an artist, a painter of dragons. And, also a teacher of ideas, drawing engaging parallels between word-smithing and painting — potentially leveling a playing field for artist Audrey and writer Andrea.

*"On the top of the escalator, I didn't know what transformational grammar was, and by the time we reached the bottom, I had a fair working knowledge. Surface structures of communication versus the underlying images and associations, which the communicators filled in from common mental constructs as well as from personally unique ones. I also grasped the miracle, in view of all these complications, of people understanding each other at all."*

Indeed, therein lies a puzzlement of actions and inter-



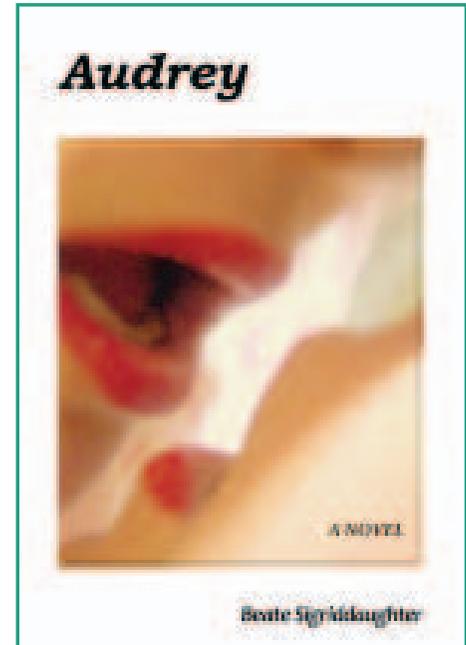
actions from the deep introspection you would expect, perhaps especially from artists, analyzing and rethinking every line and intonation. But, there are other people involved — Joel for example — the acceptor of beauty and simplicity, practical and lighthearted. Andrea, peering out at all of them from the "solitary business of writing" to a concoction of unplanned ingredients and no recipe.

*"It wasn't necessary for anyone to know the steps of the dance I performed, so long as the dance was good and full of life."*

All right then. Follow your heart — and be ready for seasonings those other chefs

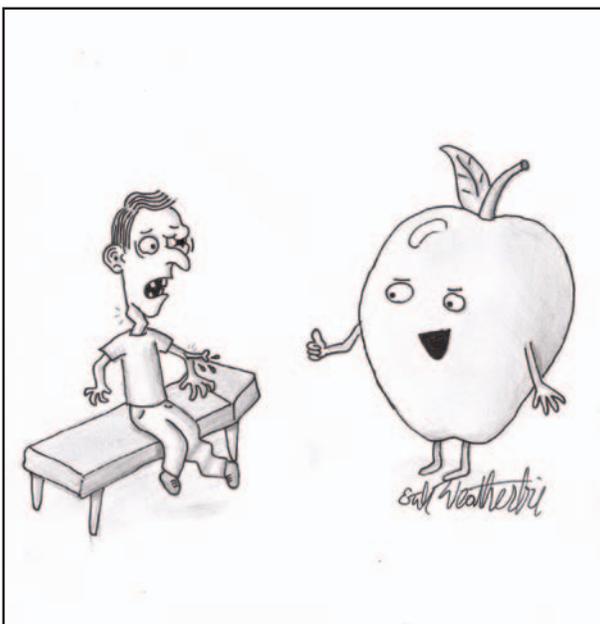
bring to the table.

*"... women's voices are important."* Sigriddaughter quests to "have a respectable language of joy . . . and a tool for having beauty and love triumph over violence and fear and ugliness." And maybe it is a keystone ingredient in this rich sauce, as Sigriddaughter ponders what Andrea really wants in her life . . . *"dissatisfaction is what keeps any of us reaching for the stars."*



Beate Sigriddaughter's *Audrey: A Book of Love* was released July 31, 2015. [booknook-eljpublications.com](http://booknook-eljpublications.com)

## Illogical by Erik Weatherbie



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