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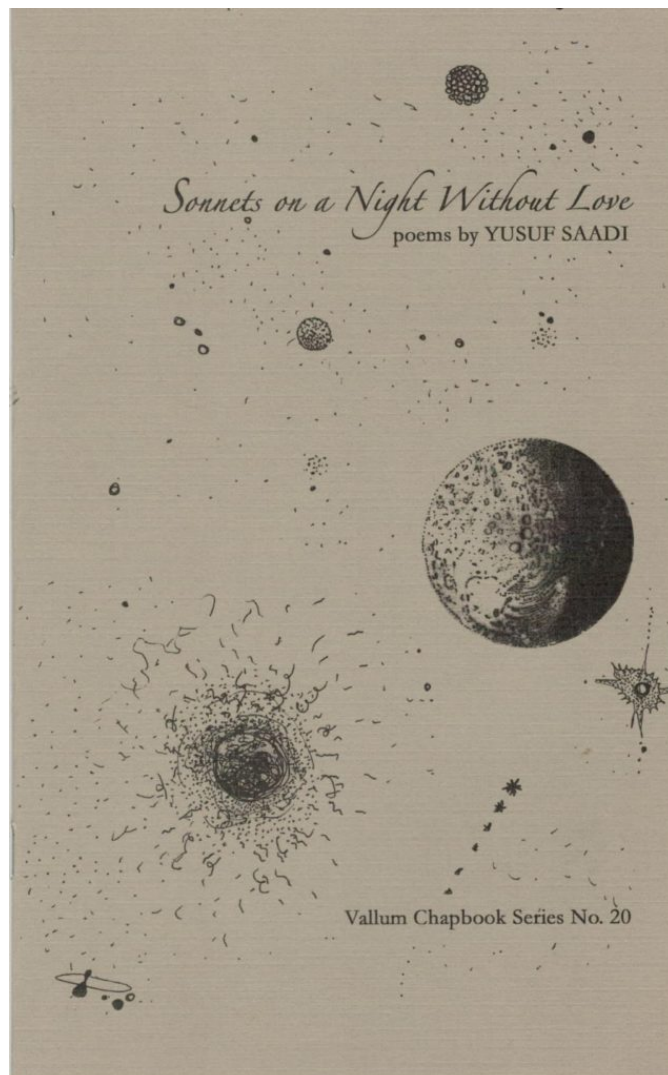
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# Chapbook Review: Sonnets on a Night Without Love

Issue 74, News, Reviews, Scott Bryson

Monday, February 20th, 2017



**Sonnets on a Night Without Love**

*Chapbook, Yusuf Saadi, 24 pgs, Vallum Society for Arts & Letters Education, [vallummag.com](http://vallummag.com), \$10*

For a collection that professes to be about a night without love, the word "love" and its machinations sure make a lot of appearances. Perhaps the title is more suggestive of an effort to fill a void, rather than an attempt to evade a feeling.

These poems predominantly see Yusuf Saadi directly addressing a lover (aside from the clever "Sonnet by a Forgotten Twix Wrapper"). The intimate mood that results demands a hushed and reverent reading — like the text is being whispered in confidence. A number of literal references to quiet and rest further enforce that direction: "Silence shawls the temporal;" "Conjoined sleepers shrouded in the TV's halo."

Saadi's verse veers into mushy territory on occasion — "I glimpse your heart which nearly blinds me" — but melodrama is par for the course when you're wading into this subject matter. To his credit, he consistently transcends the schmaltz by dabbling in out-of-this-world imagery: "I know a star in Andromeda broke / every colour in your heart." The prevalence of lines referencing stars, planets and particles makes this sound like a love letter from an astrophysicist. (Scott Bryson)

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