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Emily Dickinson's Poetic Art: A Cognitive Reading

Margaret H. Freeman. *Emily Dickinson's Poetic Art: A Cognitive Reading*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2023. 256 pp. ISBN 9781501398186. Paperback, \$31.45.

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“If I read a book and it makes my whole body so cold no fire can warm me, I know that is poetry. If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry. These are the only ways I know it. Is there any other way?” (Todd 315). There is hardly a person in the world familiar with works by Emily Dickinson who has never heard of the way she describes her confrontation with poetry in a letter written on 17 August 1870 to Th. W. Higginson, a co-editor of her poetic collections. Bodily vibrations and experiences as they are, describe in the most tangible way what one feels once her life is nothing but craving for a word. Such passion is contagious, and this is exactly what, several decades ago, happened to me, fresh from my PhD course in comparative

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