

Monsoon Daughter by Mandy More Pwint Tu [Thirty West Press, 2022]

REVIEW by Ollie Shane

Therapy contains many modalities, however, the modality that best describes the poetry collection, *Monsoon Daughter* by Mandy Moe Pwint Tu is narrative therapy. Like narrative therapy, *Monsoon Daughter* creates an intimacy that marks the reader beyond the final page by emphasizing on the speaker's pre-existing socioeconomic, racial, and gendered statuses and how she faced those adversities throughout the course of her life. Pwint Tu tells stories of her life in this collection through the persona of "Moon Daughter." She discusses her mother and father and their difficulties being Asian immigrants to the United States. The series of poems "Duplex" illustrates this exclusivity as Moon Daughter's parents grapple with understanding that life in the U.S is not as easy as they imagined. In this series of poems, she describes how she learned how to "peddle saltwater" (14), which is a euphemism for working a job in a new country. Immigrants at that time in particular, had to provide for their families no matter the risk. The poem, "Processing" discusses the same idea of generational trauma but from a different lens. Moon Daughter is told that her father is dying. Described as a complicated man, his alcoholism makes him a difficult father at best. She discusses that he lies, which does not help in the father-daughter relationship, which muddles the familial expectation of love and forgiveness. Pwint Tu pushes back on the concept of loving and the subsequent action of forgiveness "isn't/good enough." (34-35) in the face of generational trauma. According to Pwint Tu, perhaps love is not enough to move past intergenerational trauma. In all, *Monsoon Daughter* is an astounding debut by Pwint Tu. She has a nuanced discussion of many difficult topics, such as trauma and the consequences of immigration. As a debut chapbook, it shows Pwint Tu's craft very well, and I was immersed in the world she created with *Monsoon Daughter*. I cannot wait for what she writes next.