

SHARMA SHIELDS



The Cassandra by Sharma Shields

Mildred Groves is a secretary for the Hanford Project who joins the war effort as a way to escape her overbearing mother. She's always seen visions of the future and, like the eponymous mythical figure of the title, no one believes her. Shields writes with visceral detail about the Southeastern Washington landscape as well as the interior landscape of the mind. Her story blurs the line between prophecy and complicity, creating an intimate portrait of the costs and lasting effects of war and toxicity.



2020 PACIFIC NORTHWEST BOOK AWARDS