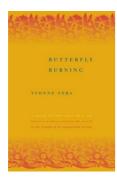
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This is a beautiful collection of words, and the story at the heart of it is devastating. Yet the poetic style obscures the narrative.

When I read Under the Tongue a bunch of years ago I couldn't quite get into it. Whether it was the book or me, or both, I don't know; but Vera's writing is very busy, the kind that in a lesser writer would reek of thesaurus overuse. and at that moment I didn't quite think the payoff was worth...