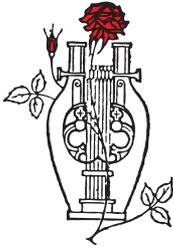


Ekstasis Editions

Spring 2021



Welcome to the Ekstasis Editions Spring 2021 catalogue. As we celebrate 39 years of publishing, Ekstasis has some extraordinary offerings this Spring.

Ekstasis Editions produced its first book in Victoria in 1982, and has gone on to publish over four hundred fine volumes of today's best literature. In this season we present new fiction by **P.W. Bridgman**, **Maureen Thorpe**, and **John Carroll**, and new poetry by **Jude Neale** and **Allan Briesmaster**. As well, we are very pleased to introduce important Dutch poet **H.C. ten Berge** to North American audiences through a translation of selected poems by **Pleuke Boyce**.

Ekstasis Editions has been characterized by a creative spirit and resilience during more than 39 years of remarkable growth. From early books of poetry, meticulously produced by hand, to a stimulating front and backlist of fiction, criticism, metaphysics, non-fiction and children's books, Ekstasis Editions has maintained the commitment to literature that inspired its creation. From newly translated fiction to drama and a healthy variety of poetic passions, our books will nourish the hungry mind and satisfy the longing spirit, as they have for the last 39 years. Join us in this literary adventure as we forge into our next thirty-eight years of publishing!

Please see our back cover for ordering information and our generous 'Terms of Trade.'

Richard Olafson, Publisher



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of Canada

Canada

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The Four-Faced Liar

P.W. BRIDGMAN

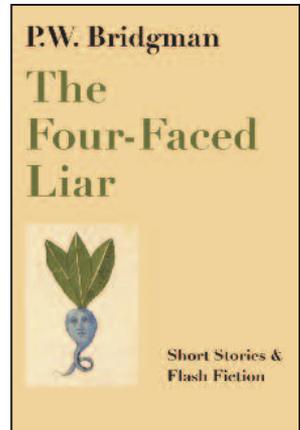
As is evident in his previous books, P.W. Bridgman's imagination is curiously nomadic and adventurous. Informed by his family history, his extensive travels and his life experience across three careers, Bridgman dips his writerly ladle into many wells in the course of serving up this latest fictional fare for his readers. These newest stories reflect the cadences and colour of life and spoken language, not only in urban and rural Canada but in Northern Ireland and England as well. At times unsentimentally tender, and at others prickly and discomfiting, the stories in *The Four-Faced Liar* continue Bridgman's explorations of love, loss, life, death, redemption and the surprisingly banal, everyday face of evil.

P.W. Bridgman writes from Vancouver, Canada. He has worked, variously, as a cobbler's helper, a grocery boy, a delivery driver, a general labourer and electrician's helper at a paper mill, a child behaviour therapy clinician and researcher, an autism treatment program director, a member of the editorial board of a psychological journal, a university law faculty research assistant, an articulated student-at-law, a barrister, the editor-in-chief of two legal journals, and a judge. His first book—a selection of short stories entitled *Standing at an Angle to My Age*—was published by Libros Libertad in 2013. His second—a selection of mostly narrative poems entitled *A Lamb*—appeared under the Ekstasis Editions imprint in 2018.

Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books*, *BC Bookworld*

Readings: Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other locations across Canada.

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-414-3

Fiction

109 pages

5.5 x 8.5

\$25.95

Available

January 2021



Swamped

MANOLIS ALIGIZAKIS

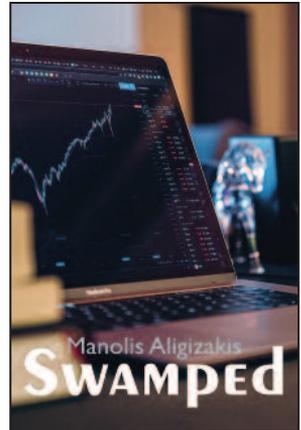
This book is a compass that guides the reader through the vortex of life and the whims of the stock market. Eteo, the Greek-Canadian protagonist, sometimes drags us into the depths of the Stock Exchange where he catches its unseen secrets and sometimes returns us back, like a mysterious river the waters of which turn back to memories of his birth and childhood in Crete. A book that oscillates between yesterday and today, poverty and wealth, good and evil yet it remains steadfast in the universal human values by watching them through the lens of an honest stockbroker who reaches Vancouver's top while he remains intact. Lyrical, erotic, humane, realistic and at the same time surrealistic, it captivates the reader as it manages to keep alive the child within by releasing his curiosity through the lens of humanity. The hero learns that man is made for greatness and it teaches him the lesson of dignity, reinforcing within him the power of grace and love.

Emmanuel Aligizakis, (**Manolis**) is a Cretan-Canadian poet and author. He was recently appointed an honorary instructor and fellow of the International Arts Academy, and awarded a Master's for the Arts in Literature. He emigrated to Vancouver in 1973. He now lives in White Rock, where he spends his time writing, gardening, traveling, and heading Libros Libertad, an unorthodox and independent publishing company which he founded in 2006 with the mission of publishing literary books.

Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books, BC Bookworld*

Readings: Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other locations across Canada.

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-432-7

Fiction

293 pages

5.5 x 8.5

\$25.95

Available

March 2021



Coventina's Well

MAUREEN THORPE

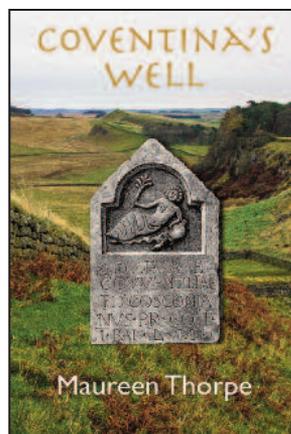
A spellbinding journey through time and cultures... In *Coventina's Well*, three women, each from a different century, find themselves on a hazardous journey from the Roman Fort of Eboracum (York) to Hadrian's Wall on the roof of England. Annie Thornton, modern midwife and witch, joins her hereditary witchy Aunt Meg to aid the ailing young wife of the Fort Commander in 296 A.D. Without explanation, Aunt Meg disappears. Annie becomes a fugitive from the Roman Army and seeks help from local natives and her old 15th century adventurers, ex-soldiers Will and Jack. As the three women separately venture north, the complex relationship between the Celtic tribes and their Roman conquerors is exposed. Meanwhile, back in Eboracum, disaster awaits. Once again, vivid historical detail, combined with magic realism and human fallibilities, take the reader on a fascinating journey through time.

Maureen Thorpe was raised in Yorkshire and now lives in Invermere, B.C. After a career as a nurse, yoga instructor and running coach, Maureen started writing fiction, drawing upon her background and interest in history. Since releasing *Tangle of Time* in 2018 she has shared presentations on medieval England in libraries and community centres.

Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books, BC Bookworld*

Readings: Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other locations across Canada.

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-438-9

Fiction

310 pages

5.5 x 8.5

\$25.95

Available

May 2021



Crying Houses & Other Catastrophes

JOHN CARROLL

A daughter learns from her father how to thrive beyond the reach of conventional morality; paranoia convinces someone their alphabet soup has been hacked; a bored teenager decides his fate is selling rocking chairs for a living; a jolly lady tries to infuse life back into the hopeless residents of a “crying house”; the Lying Machine spits out “alternative facts”; —in this collection of narratives set against a backdrop of encroaching menace, victims struggle to preserve their threatened humanity. *Crying Houses* limns the destinies of heroes and fools who confront the calamitous demands of a world on the cusp.

Poignant, witty, terse, ferociously honest and full of dark humor—John Carroll’s *Crying Houses* raises contentious yet relevant questions faced by humanity as it navigates a constantly monitored life in a world eternally divided on political, religious and ideological lines.

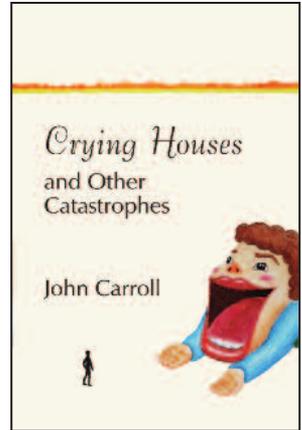
~ Rajnish Dhawan, author of *That Land Beyond the Waves*

John Carroll is a director, actor, writer, and professor emeritus. He lives in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia.

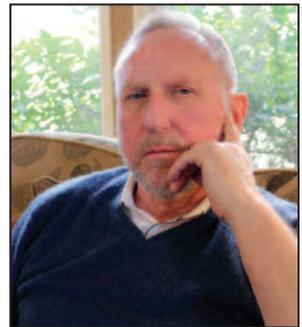
Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books*, *BC Bookworld*

Readings: Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other locations across Canada.

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-424-2
Fiction
303 pages
5.5 x 8.5
\$25.95
Available
June 2021



The River Answers

JUDE NEALE

Leonard Cohen sang “They are leaning out for love and they will lean that way forever” and here Jude Neale is leaning in her quest for love, leaning into light, and “into the dark” through memory, through dreams and the substance of ordinary things. She calls for tenderness to birth love and kindness as she lets a river of words answer.

~ Daniel Scott, author of *Aftertime*

Jude Neale’s poems are full of questions that make us lean closer in to answer. They speak of love with a wisdom gathered from childhood through half-opened eyelids in the dusk. These poems are generous; they toss up the scenes of a life and offer them like food. And fearless in their selection. This is her gift: the poet’s eye, the image paired with the sound that rings for years. She always finds the one small door that will open me on any particular day. Then, tell me, she asks, what did you see?

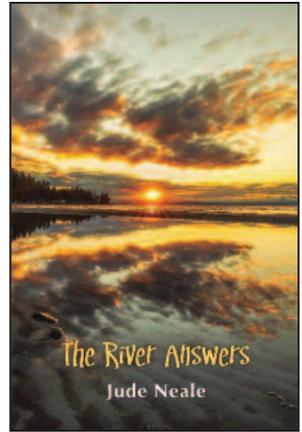
~ Ursula Vaira, author of *And See What Happens*

Jude Neale is a Canadian poet, flash fiction writer, opera singer, retired master teacher, spoken word performer, editor and mentor. She has been shortlisted, highly commended and finalist for many international and national competitions. She has written eight books of poetry.

Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books, BC Bookworld*

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Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-408-2

Poetry

74 Pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

January 2021



Speaking in Tongues

H.C. TEN BERGE

translated by Pleuke Boyce

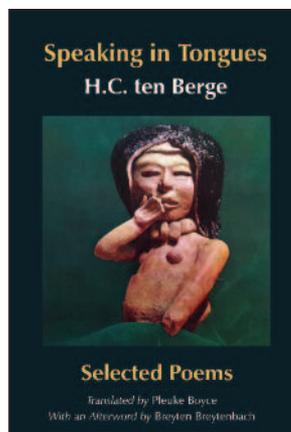
Speaking in Tongues should come as a welcome surprise to English-language readers, as it not only opens new doors, but also presents exciting technical challenges. **H.C. ten Berge** is a master of many genres, but poetry informs all of his writing. In this generous new selection of poems and poem-sequences translated into English—his first publication in book form in North America—we follow the exciting trajectory of the poet from his initial collection, *Poolsneeuw* (*Polar Snow*) in 1964, to his most recent, *In tongen spreken* (*Speaking in Tongues*), which came out in 2020. His poetry is nourished and influenced not only by the contemporary world, but also by the European Middle Ages and earlier civilizations. A major voice in The Netherlands, Ten Berge has won many prizes and distinctions, including the prestigious P.C. Hooft Award (2006), the jury celebrating that he “has opened Dutch poetry to worlds that until then had gone unnoticed.”

H.C. ten Berge was born in 1938 in Alkmaar, the Netherlands. One of Holland’s most important poets, he is the author of a large body of work that includes not only poetry but also novels, novellas, essays and translations. Apart from translating from modern languages, he collected and translated poetry and myths of the Aztecs, Inuit, Eastern Siberian Peoples and First Nations of the Pacific Northwest. He has received many awards for his work, including the most important and prestigious oeuvre prize in the Netherlands, the P.C. Hooft Award.

Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books*, *BC Bookworld*

Readings: Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other locations across Canada.

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-416-7

Poetry

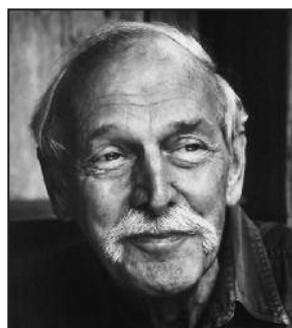
165 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

March 2021



Windfor

ALLAN BRIESMASTER

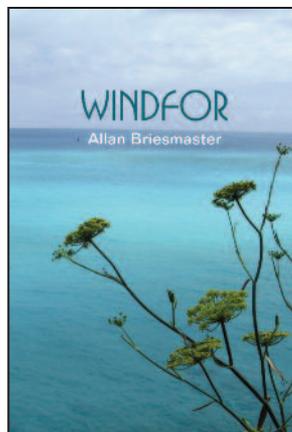
The poems in *Windfor* invite readers to explore three broad areas of lifelong concern that are at once intimate and universal. The book's first section presents pivotal episodes from early childhood through late middle age. Autobiographic elements interweave with motifs of travel and restless motion. There is a sense of transience but also of a confident gain in selfhood, among friends who, "not alone, could grow and strengthen/ by merely being more ourselves." The second section anxiously examines personal relationships that will sometimes give "gifts of dissonance", together with internal psychology further complicated by the dilemma of those who chafe at the "wide harm" of a globalized technocratic culture. The third, more mellow section fondly immerses in outdoor scenes "that charge my greening vision at its heart", shadowed by the inextricable awareness of "markets busily oblivious" to "a climate out-of-kilter". Throughout the book, in a largely contemplative, relentlessly inquiring mode, an ingenious use of varied forms and styles lends energetic vitality to an abundance of ideas and metaphors.

Allan Briesmaster is a freelance editor and publisher. He was a founding partner in Quattro Books and currently runs his own literary press, Aeolus House. He is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *The Long Bond: Selected and New Poems* (Guernica Editions, 2019), and he has read his work, given talks, and hosted literary events across Canada. He lives in Thornhill, Ontario.

Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books*, *BC Bookworld*

Readings: Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and other locations across Canada.

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-434-1

Poetry

87 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

April 2021

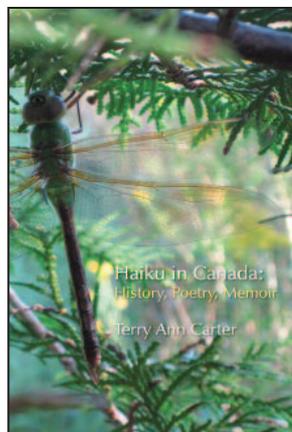


Haiku in Canada: History, Poetry, Memoir

TERRY ANN CARTER

From the haikukai circles of British Columbia's internment camps to the seminal Canadian anthologies edited by George Swede, Dorothy Howard and André Duhaime, and Marshall Hryciuk, to the avant-garde elements of Gregory Betts's *Haikube*, and Gary Barwin and derek beaulieu's *frogments in the frag pool*, Terry Ann Carter has given haiku a wide sweep in the pages of *Haiku in Canada*. Featuring over 175 poets, including translated poems from French Canada, her labour over a decade has resulted in a tour de force of history and poetry.

Poet and paper artist **Terry Ann Carter** is the author of six collections of long form poetry, two haiku guidebooks, and five haiku chapbooks; she has edited four haiku anthologies. As past president of Haiku Canada, founder of and facilitator for KaDo Ottawa (2001-2012) and Haiku Arbutus Victoria Study Group (2014-present), she has given hundreds of haiku and book arts workshops around the world. *Tokaido* (Red Moon Press, 2017) won a Touchstone Distinguished Book Award, and in 2019, she was a judge for the first International Haiku Contest for the city of Morioka, Japan. In June 2020, she will be teaching a book arts master class in Umbria, Italy.



ISBN 978-1-77171-382-5
Non-Fiction
111 pages
5.5 x 8.5
\$24.95
Now Available



Iotékha'

ROBERT LALONDE

translated by Jean-Paul Murray

Iotékha', which means “he burns” in the Mohawk language, is the journal of a feverish traveler who is torn between the pains and passions of life, who reveals his hopes and despairs, tirelessly seeking illuminations. *Iotékha'* is a book about things barely glimpsed, tobacco smoke, imaginary doomsdays, amazing yet ordinary people and fires that call us in the distance...

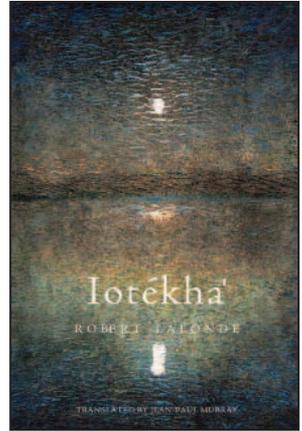
“A book of remarkable subtlety and exceptional quality... The reader can’t help but be moved and transformed. Once again, Robert Lalonde is a magician.”

~ Yvon Paré, *Lettres québécoises*

“Pages of incredible beauty and great poignancy... An extraordinary and magnificent book.”

~ Chantal Jolis, Radio-Canada

An actor, playwright and translator, **Robert Lalonde** is one of Quebec’s leading novelists. His previous books published in translation by Ekstasis Editions include *The Ogre of Grand Remous*, *The Devil Incarnate*, *One Beautiful Day to Come*, *The Whole Wide World*, *Seven Lakes Further North*, *The Last Indian Summer*, *What Will I Become Until I Die?*, *Little Eagle with a White Head*, *The Heart Is What Dies Last*, *The World on the Side of a Trout* and *The Little Thief*.



ISBN 978-1-77171-366-5

Non-Fiction

111 pages

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There Once Was a Camel

P.K. PAGE

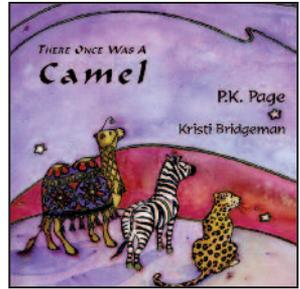
& KRISTI BRIDGEMAN

*There once was a camel
all dressed in enamel...*

There Once Was A Camel, a delightful new picture book by Canada's revered poet P.K. Page, introduces children to endearing animal friends who offer a bold approach to life. Combining the fun of a nonsense rhyme with the wisdom of Aesop's fables, it is sure to become a story-and-bedtime favourite. Imaginative illustrations by Kristi Bridgeman draw the reader into the colourful world of one extraordinary camel and his remarkable friends.

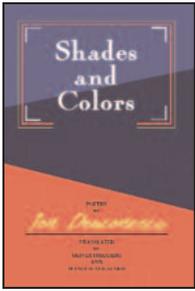
The late **P.K. Page** is one of Canada's most esteemed poets whose literary career spanned over five decades. She was the author of some twenty books including ten volumes of poetry in addition to memoir, fiction and children's titles. Winner of the Governor General's Award for Poetry in 1957, P.K. Page was also appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1999. Most recently her volume *Planet Earth: Poems Selected and New* was short-listed for the prestigious Griffin Poetry Prize. *There Once Was A Camel* is P.K. Page's seventh book for children. Born in England and brought up on the Canadian prairies, P.K. Page lived in Victoria, British Columbia.

Kristi Bridgeman is both an exhibiting visual artist and an illustrator of books for children, including the popular picture books *The Sock Fairy* and *The Knot Fairy*. Born and raised on the West Coast of Canada, she attended Emily Carr College of Art and now resides in Victoria, British Columbia. Actively involved with the environment, children and the arts, she is vice president of the Island Illustrator's Society.



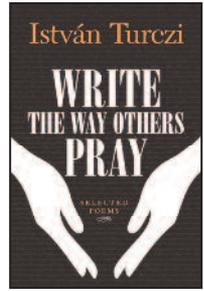
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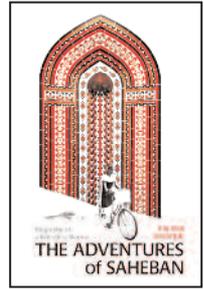
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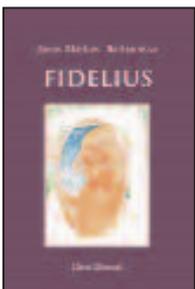
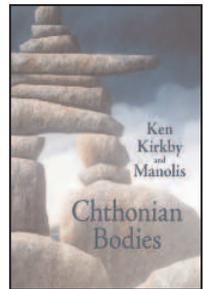
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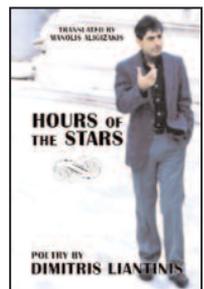
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Ken Kirkby & Manolis
Chthonian Bodies
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Dimitris Liantinis
Hours of the Stars
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 86 pages, \$20.00



Sailing to Byzantium

MAUREEN THORPE

In *Sailing to Byzantium* two time-travelling wise women from different centuries sail by Viking boat from 10th century Yorkshire to the ancient city of Byzantium to rescue 7-year-old twins. Midwife and fledgling witch, Annie Thornton, and her cat Rosamund, reunite with Annie's Aunt Meg, a hereditary witch last encountered in 15th century Hallamby, England in *Tangle of Time*, Maureen Thorpe's first mystery in this series.

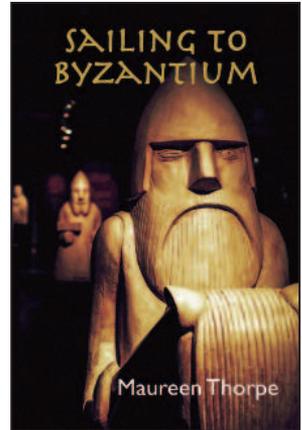
Annie's sweetheart from the deep past reappears to help the women face the challenges of an arduous journey, made more difficult by a sinister Viking queen determined to get her way.

Combining vivid historical detail with the imaginative possibilities of magic realism, *Sailing to Byzantium* is a spellbinding journey through time and cultures seen through the astonished eyes of a contemporary woman who both loses and finds her inner power.

"Historical accuracy leaves the reader feeling they too have travelled through time and space."

~ Kathleen Pickard. MA History

Maureen Thorpe was raised in Yorkshire and now lives in Invermere, B.C. After a career as a nurse, yoga instructor and running coach, Maureen started writing fiction, drawing upon her background and interest in history. Since releasing *Tangle of Time* in 2018 she has shared presentations on medieval England in libraries and community centres.



ISBN 978-1-77171-384-9

Fiction

299 pages

5.5 x 8.5

\$25.95

Now Available

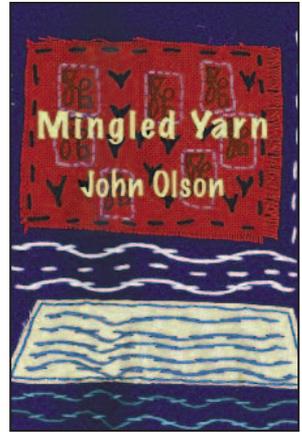


Mingled Yarn

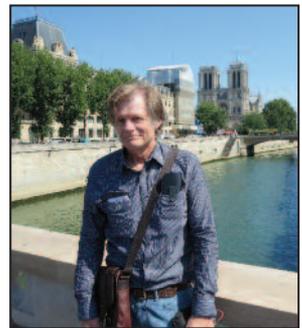
JOHN OLSON

All lives, it seems, are composed of multiple strands, multiple perspectives, multiple stories & yarns. This particular weaving of a life started as a simple autobiography, following my wife’s suggestion. I balked at first, since I’m neither a retired Civil War general or a former President of the United States. Nor am I a Hollywood celebrity, a Self-Help guru or a noted French chef. I’m just a writer. I enjoy writing, & I’m always on the watch for things to write about. That adage “write what you know” is true. So I decided to take the plunge & try to stitch a narrative together, using words as my needles, my life as material. That material, however, segued loop by loop out of strict autobiography into the variable disperse dyes of fiction. Fact & fiction are intermingled. How much is lived experience & how much is invention are stitched so closely they often overlap & become a surprising new color. Life is a continual purling of insights & observations into crazily stitched patterns. All you can do is put it on & wear it.

John Olson is the author of numerous books of prose poetry, including *Weave of the Dream King* (forthcoming from Black Widow Press), *Dada Budapest*, *Larynx Galaxy* and *Backscatter: New and Selected Poetry*. *Mingled Yarn* is his fifth novel. His other novels include *In Advance of the Broken Justy*, *The Seeing Machine*, *The Nothing That Is*, and *Souls of Wind*, which was shortlisted for a Believer Book Award in 2008.



ISBN 978-1-77171-404-4
 Fiction
 166 pages
 5.5 x 8.5
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Driving Lessons

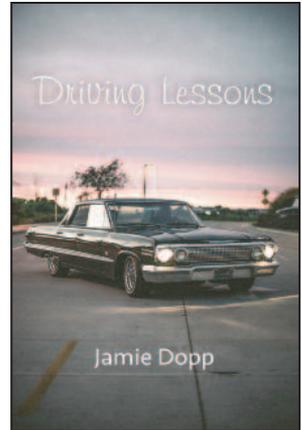
JAMIE DOPP

Jamie Trotter is growing up in Waterloo, Ontario in the 1960s and 1970s. Outwardly he leads an ideal life: he has loving parents, goes to church and school, and plays hockey. When he is ten years old, however, a joke that backfires starts him on an unexpected path to self-discovery. Gradually, his life becomes more complicated. At age seventeen, his first love becomes entangled with doubts about religion and rebellion against his parents, and he is pushed towards a potentially life-altering decision. By turns tragic and wildly funny, *Driving Lessons* is a Canadian coming-of-age novel in the rich tradition that runs from W. O. Mitchell to Miriam Toews.

To read *Driving Lessons* is to travel bravely back to childhood, and coming-of-age, and see it all as clearly as if you'd never left. Jamie Dopp's deft and vivid prose holds a mirror up to how we discover ourselves, negotiating the tender agonies and joys of family, friends, road hockey, not to mention the ultimate showdown between sex and religion. And it's a book as Canadian as they come, eh?

~ Bill Gaston, author of *The Good Body* and *A Mariner's Guide to Self-Sabotage*

Jamie Dopp is a novelist, poet, and musician, as well as a professor of Canadian Literature at the University of Victoria. He won the gritlit Award for fiction for the story "Little Fish" in 2011. Growing up in Waterloo, Ontario gave him an appreciation for how ordinary-seeming places are rich sources for both comedy and tragedy.



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When Conditions Are Right

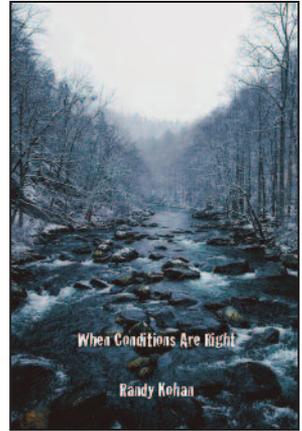
RANDY KOHAN

On the journey to self-discovery, language has the power to transmit – across distances, jumping the track from one language to the another, one culture to another – a psychic density capable of fundamentally informing one’s prism of perception.

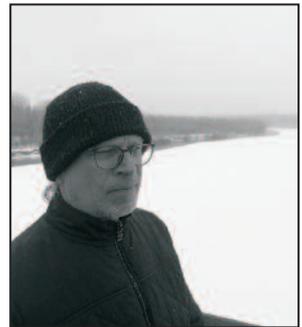
Though I did not move my lips
I was listening
when the border guard said
“Don’t forget your motherland.”

When Conditions are Right is the result of a lyric poet’s on-going contact between the inherited world of others and his own. Generating sparks of startling imagery, this book is an open invitation for the reader to imagine, create, grow, their own native realm.

Randy Kohan is the author of three previous collections of poetry with Ekstasis Editions. His first collection, *Hammers & Bells* (2013) was translated into Russian and re-released as a dual-language work in 2019. With facilitator and co-translator Zaira Makacheva, they travelled to Russia, introducing this edition to readers in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Makhachkala, Dagestan. In St. Petersburg, they were the first Canadians to present at the V.V. Mayakovsky Central City Library. And in Makhachkala, *Hammers & Bells - Колокола и Молот* (2019) won Best Book of Poetry at the prestigious Tarki-Tau Book Fair. Born and raised in Regina, Saskatchewan, Randy lives with his wife and two sons in Edmonton, Alberta.



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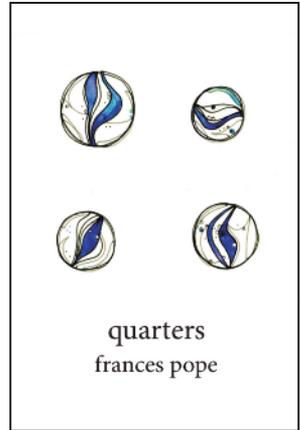


Quarters

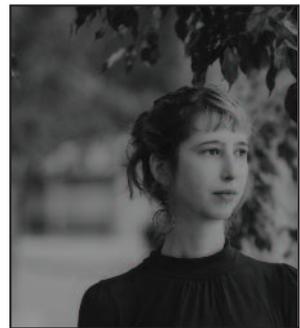
FRANCES POPE

Quarters is in four parts and four places. The poem “Quarters,” itself split in four, opens each section. These are poems about family, friends, the city, and the sea. Writing, walking, words, and routes. The body, its beauty, its strangeness and sadness and life. Missing and distance. Libraries and streets and the night sky. And a shift—from nothing to something. Transparency can be a gorgeous lens, can be an invisible wall; glass lets the light in, but nothing else. Shifting light changes how we see, and turning and tilting makes all the difference. And when there’s nothing else, when everything is blank and bare, all you have left is a clean square of light that travels across the wall, or the shadow-shapes of leaves cast on the floor.

Frances Pope is a writer and French-English translator. Originally from the UK, she has been writing poetry and taking part in open mics and readings for several years, starting in Brighton in 2009 and continuing in London, in France, and in Montreal where she has lived since 2015. Her work has appeared in *Carte Blanche*, *Asymptote*, Québec Reads, *L’Organe*, UNAM’s *Periódico de Poesía*, and *The Cannon’s Mouth*, and is forthcoming in *Phantom Drift*. Frances also draws and is learning photography, and she is currently working on a project bringing together words and illustrations.



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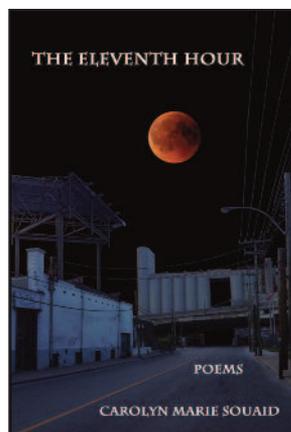


The Eleventh Hour

CAROLYN MARIE SOUAID

In her much-anticipated eighth collection *The Eleventh Hour*, Carolyn Marie Souaid distills the complex emergencies of the everyday with a keen eye, sharp ear and sure hand. Cycling through themes of aging, dying and the inescapable erosion of life, her poems are a poignant catalogue of finite moments, a nod to the “inadequacy of the present” and the “incremental withdrawal” of earthly things, peppered with insistent, eleventh-hour reminders that what ultimately matters is not the “finish line” or the “final performance” of a career, but the human spirit “orbiting the nucleus of time.” These poems of the eleventh hour are bridges connecting life and death, where nothing and everything matters, the sayable and the unsayable, the necessary and the futile.

Carolyn Marie Souaid is the author of seven previous poetry collections. Her work has been shortlisted for literary awards including the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award and has been featured on CBC-Radio. *Blood is Blood*, a controversial videopoem co-written with Endre Farkas, garnered a top prize at the 2012 Zebra Poetry Film Festival in Berlin. *Yasmeen Haddad Loves Joanasi Maqaattik* (Baraka Books, 2017), her debut novel exploring the aftermath of colonization in a fictional community of Northern Quebec, won the Silver Medal for Regional Fiction at the Independent Publisher Book Awards in New York. She lives in Montreal, where she counsels Inuit students attending John Abbott College.



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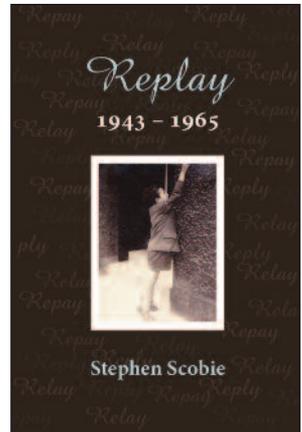


Replay 1943-1965

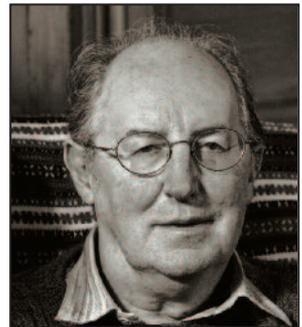
STEPHEN SCOBIE

Stephen Scobie is known as a prolific Canadian poet (Governor General's Award 1980) and critic (Prix Gabrielle Roy 1986). But he was born in Scotland, in 1943, and spent the first 21 years of his life there, before coming to Canada in 1965. In this new book *Replay* (mainly poetry, part prose memoir), Scobie looks back at these early years as if at a series of images, a memory-recording which he can (always bearing in mind the fallibility of memory's service) replay – and repay, and relay, and reply. The poems range widely over the personal – memories of his family, especially of his father, and of the tangled glories of several adolescent love affairs – and the public world – from a despotic namesake in post-War Greece to a sensational murder trial in 1950s Glasgow. What remains throughout is Scotland – the land itself, its history and culture – which the retrospect of 50 years has only brought into the sharper focus of this *Replay*.

Stephen Scobie is a Canadian poet, critic, and scholar. Born in Carnoustie, Scotland, Scobie relocated to Canada in 1965. He earned a PhD from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver after which he taught at the University of Alberta and at the University of Victoria. Scobie is a founding editor of Longspoon Press, an elected member of the Royal Society of Canada, and the recipient of the 1980 Governor General's Award for *McAlmon's Chinese Opera* (1980) and the 1986 Prix Gabrielle Roy for Canadian Criticism.



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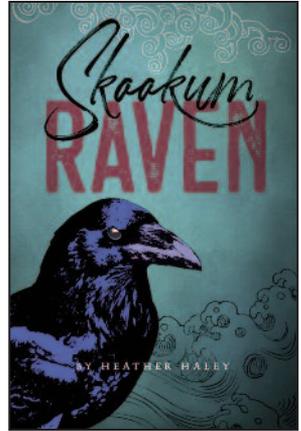


Skookum Raven

HEATHER HALEY

There are some rough and wild birds around Howe Sound — West Coast avians like the sharp-shinned hawk, the northern harrier, and the whiskey-jack. Heather Haley, an accomplished mapper of human migration, pair-bonding and predation, takes these feathered frenemies as her starting point in this assured third collection, *Skookum Raven*. Like her foremothers and contemporaries Gwendolyn MacEwen, Susan Musgrave and Karen Solie, Haley writes sophisticated free lyrics of a witchy feminist kind — but adds some proletarian ferocity with her bus-station grandpas and sketches of iffy guys like Ed the Fence. These are astute, austere poems which sometimes take flight into optimistic beauty — this book is “pockmarked with luck.”

Poet, novelist and musician **Heather Haley** pushes boundaries by creatively integrating disciplines, genres and media. Her writing has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, she was Poetry Editor for the *LA Weekly* and publisher of the *Edgewise Cafe*, one of Canada’s first electronic literary magazines. She is the author of poetry collections *Sideways* (Anvil Press), *Three Blocks West of Wonderland* (Ekstasis Editions), debut novel, *The Town Slut’s Daughter* (Howe Sound Publishing) and the new collection, *Skookum Raven* (Ekstasis Editions).



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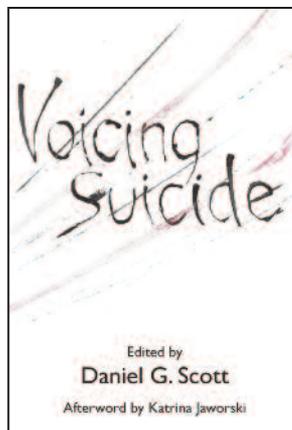


Voicing Suicide

EDITED BY DANIEL G SCOTT

Voicing Suicide is a collection of poems about suicide and its impact on lives. The book arises out of a conviction that poetry offers an opportunity to understand some of the difficult aspects of suicide by allowing us to give it voice; through memory, and elegy, through an honest declaration of the draw of death. In poetry, we can enter the spaces suicide shapes around loss and sorrow and give it voice. Poems can speak to the loss of a loved one, to considering suicide, to struggling to make sense of suicide and poems can offer the words of those who have suicided. Although intense and sometimes painful the book is honest, in moments delicate and tender. It offers an important exploration of suicide by writers who have been close to suicide and speak of it without disguise.

Daniel G Scott is the current (5th) Artistic Director of the Planet Earth Poetry Reading Series. He has written in a variety of forms but poetry is his long-standing love. He has previously published *gnarled love*, *terrains* and *Random Excess* (with Ekstasis Editions), and *black onion* and two chapbooks: *street signs* and *Interrupted* (with Goldfinch Press). He has individual poems in anthologies and chapbooks as well as numerous academic publications including journal articles and book chapters and, with Shannon McFerran, *The Girls Diary Project* (University of Victoria, 2013). He is an Associate Professor Emeritus, University of Victoria, School of Child and Youth Care, father and grandfather.



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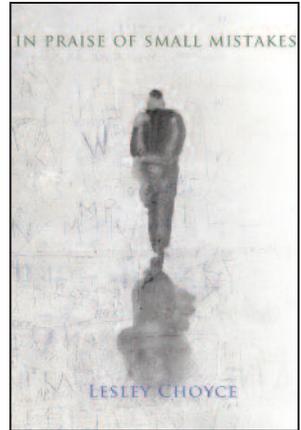


In Praise of Small Mistakes

LESLEY CHOYCE

We learn from our mistakes more often than from our success. In *In Praise of Small Mistakes* the title poem sets the stage for an unlikely and engaging examination of the minor and major events of a life. The events are perhaps down to earth but Choyce comes at them from curious angles and presents his own singular interpretation of what the world offers up to an engaging mind. The geography is home on the coast of Nova Scotia but also on the streets of England, France, Italy, Greece and Germany. Wandering through these landscapes, Choyce provides a virtual tour of the real and the imagined through the lens of language that speaks of both perplexity and awe.

Lesley Choyce is the author of 100 books of literary fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction and young adult novels. He runs Pottersfield Press and has worked as editor with a wide range of Canadian authors. Choyce has been teaching English and Creative Writing at Dalhousie and other universities for over thirty years. He has won The Dartmouth Book Award, The Atlantic Poetry Prize and The Ann Connor Brimer Award and has been short-listed for the Governor-General’s Award. He surfs year round in the North Atlantic. He lives in Lawrencetown Beach, Nova Scotia.



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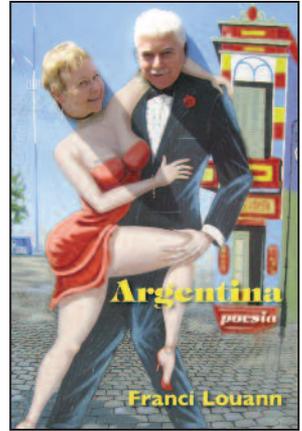
Argentina *poesia*

FRANCI LOUANN

“Franci Louann’s *Argentina poesia* is a travel diary transformed by kaleidoscopic language. From the very first page, Argentina bursts into life in poems dripping with colours, fragrances, sensations. If you have not travelled to this vast country, these poems will take you there. The swirl of words, intense and provocative, is mitigated with peals of laughter, ironic reflections, and gentle affirmations. To be sure, Louann’s Argentina, where theft and muggings are just around the corner, is not a perfect place. Yet joyous friendship, little kindnesses, good food and conversation, light up each poem. In Louann’s trenchant poetic universe, living is not reasoned into place: it simply is.”

~ Robert Martens

Franci Louann was born in Stratford, Ontario. Her father was a British Home Child, her mother third-generation German-Canadian. She had her first fine publications in Dorothy Livesay’s last anthology, *WOMAN’S EYE: 12 BC poets* (Air) in the 1970s. Her name was then Fran Workman. In 2010, Lipstick Press published her *Beach Cardiology*. There have been awards for Franci’s poetry and for her decades of volunteer work in this area. She is thankful for many falling-off-her-chair moments. From 2002 to 2017, Argentina was Franci’s “second home.” She has enough poems about these experiences to fill another book.



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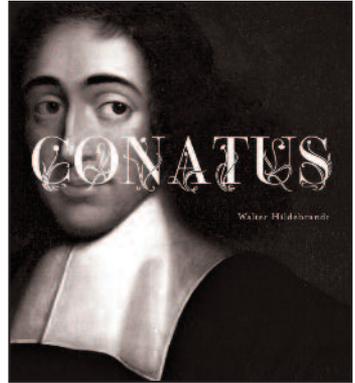


Conatus

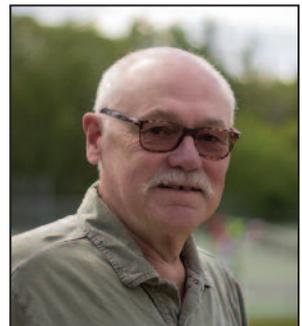
WALTER HILDEBRANDT

While reading Leonardo Padura’s novel *Heretics* Hildebrandt became fascinated by the tolerance that existed in Havana Cuba, and Amsterdam in the Netherlands. These two cities became havens and harbours for Sephardic Jews initially driven out of the Middle East by Romans, then persecuted in Spain and Portugal by the Inquisitions of the Catholic Church. Hildebrandt uses a wide variety of people and characters to bring us a greater understanding of the two remarkable cities. These include Rembrandt, Spinoza, and the fictional characters detective Mario Conde, Elias and Judy from *Heretics*. This long poem is powerful, thought-provoking and engaging. Like his other long poems, Hildebrandt draws on an array of disciplines and forms, including history, culture, philosophy, fiction and diverse lyric and narrative poetics. In these troubled, increasingly intolerant times, *Conatus* is an important read.

Historian and poet **Walter Hildebrandt** was born in Brooks, Alberta and now lives in Edmonton. He was the Director of University of Calgary Press and Athabasca University Press. He was awarded the Gustavus Meyers Award 1997, for outstanding work on human rights in North America, for his book *The Spirit and Intent of Treaty 7*. His long poem *Sightings* was nominated for the McNally-Robinson Book of the Year in Manitoba in 1992. A previous volume of poetry, *Where the Land Gets Broken*, received the Stephan G. Stephanson for best poetry book in Alberta in 2005. This is his thirteenth book of poetry.



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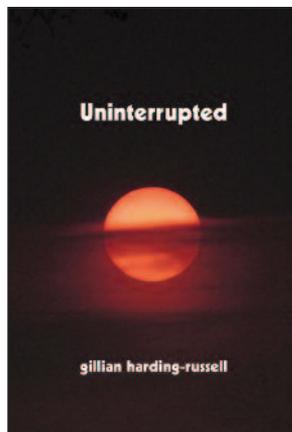


Uninterrupted

GILLIAN HARDING-RUSSELL

Nature in its beauty and dynamism is a fragile system that could be lost to us – though it will continue in some form without us. ‘Uninterrupted’ nature was once our home and identity, one that we looked to for meaning and solace, a world larger than ourselves – but lately we seem to have forgotten our place in the cosmos. These poems of warning evoke terror in recognition of what could be our future. Yet they are written out of love for what could be lost and they search for what may be wrong in ourselves.

Regina poet, editor and reviewer **gillian harding-russell** has published in journals across Canada and her poems have been anthologized in seventeen collections. Her recent poetry collection, *In Another Air* (Radiant 2018), was shortlisted for a City of Regina Saskatchewan Book Award. Her work has been shortlisted or has won the Thomas Morton Award, gritLIT and Exile’s Gwendolyn MacEwen chapbook competitions. She received a Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan, completing her dissertation on postmodern Canadian poetry. *Uninterrupted* is her fifth poetry collection.



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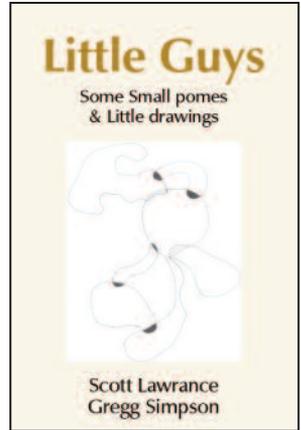
Little Guys

SCOTT LAWRANCE & GREGG SIMPSON

Growing up within a block of one another, when they weren't in the forest out back, Gregg & Scott spent days on the living room floor, teleporting and time travelling with their Little Guys through planetary spheres, frontier forts, and medieval castles. They have stayed with the Imaginal through further collaborations, starting with *apocolips*, in 1967. In *Little Guys*, they continue their play on behalf of the gods, the small ones, the ones who care not for Big, Here are intertwined words and images from the shores and forests of the Salish Sea, settling into place.

Scott Lawrance grew up outside on the fringes of Vancouver, B.C. He currently works as a Wilderness Rites-of-Passage facilitator and is busily engaged in encouraging his children and grand-children to get into as much of the good kind of trouble as they can.

Born in Ottawa in 1947, Bowen Island artist **Gregg Simpson** has been active in visual art, music, video and multi-media performances since the mid-1960s. He was instrumental in the early developments in Vancouver's 1960s "golden age" of multi-media, such as the Sound Gallery and Intermedia.



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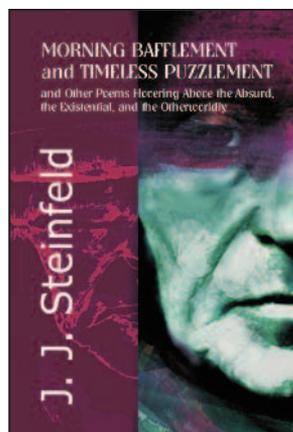


Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement

J. J. STEINFELD

The 102 poems of *Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement* continue the dialogue with and a questioning of the human condition as they hover above what the author sees as the absurd, the existential, and otherworldly elements of life, the ordinary and the extraordinary spheres of being, that J. J. Steinfeld embarked upon in his previous Ekstasis Editions poetry collection, *A Visit to the Kafka Café* (2018). These poems once again attempt to make sense out the way we conduct our lives, to find meaning in our not always meaningful surroundings, to look at individuals caught in the sometimes joyous, sometimes frightening, yet endlessly fascinating moments of existence and being.

Fiction writer, poet, and playwright **J. J. Steinfeld** lives on Prince Edward Island, where he is patiently waiting for Godot's arrival and a phone call from Kafka. While waiting, he has published twenty-one books: two novels, thirteen short story collections, and six poetry collections, along with five chap-books of poetry and fiction. Over fifty of his one-act plays and a handful of full-length plays have been performed in Canada and the United States.



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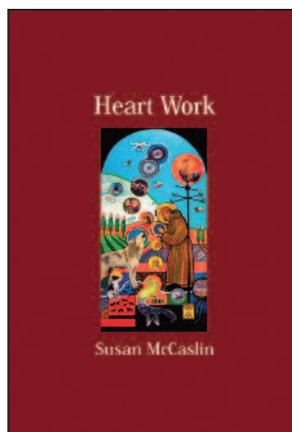


Heart Work

SUSAN MCCASLIN

Over the decades Susan McCaslin’s body of poetry has gravitated to openings where contemplative poetry and social justice kiss. *Heart Work* explores the non-dual regions of “the educated heart” where heart and mind, feeling and thinking conjoin. Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, and John Keats whirl together in liminal and earthy places where beliefs and concepts open to unknowing and mystery. Her breathtaking union of minimalist, Zen-like poems paired with her husband’s powerful photos in “Cariboo Fires, 2017,” and her sequence on living during the pandemic, “Corona Corona,” offer hope by tying the cosmic to the particular and the everyday.

Susan McCaslin is a Canadian poet from Fort Langley, British Columbia who has published fifteen volumes of poetry, including her most recent, *Into the Open: Poems New and Selected* (Inanna, 2017). She has recently collaborated with J.S. Porter on a volume of creative non-fiction, *Superabundantly Alive: Thomas Merton’s Dance with the Feminine* (Wood Lake, 2018). Her *Demeter Goes Skydiving* (University of Alberta Press, 2012) was shortlisted for the BC Book Prize for Poetry (Dorothy Livesay Award) and the first-place winner of the Alberta Book Publishing Award (Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award) in 2012. That year, she initiated The Han Shan Poetry Project in a successful effort to help save a rainforest near her home along the Fraser River in Glen Valley.



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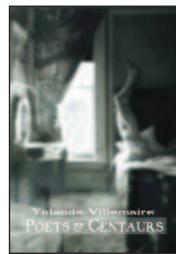
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