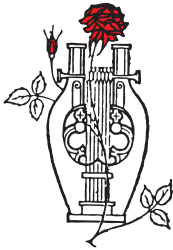


Ekstasis Editions
Fall 2020



Welcome to the Ekstasis Editions Fall 2020 catalogue. As we celebrate 38 years of publishing, Ekstasis has some extraordinary offerings this Fall.

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 are grateful to the Canada Council for the Arts for their continued support of the revival of our translation series, now called "Passport to the Imagination," which allows us to publish non-fiction by **Robert Lalonde** and poetry by **Denise Desautels**. This season we present new fiction from **Maureen Thorpe**, **John Olson** and **Jamie Dopp**, and new poetry by **Randy Kohan**, **Frances Pope**, **Carolyn Marie Souaid**, **Stephen Scobie**, **Heather Haley**, **Daniel G. Scott**, **Lesley Choyce**, **Franci Louann**, **Walter Hildebrandt**, **Gillian Harding-Russell**, **Scott Lawrance**, **J.J. Steinfeld**, and **Susan McCaslin**. We also present an important new anthology on the aftermath of suicide, ***Voicing Suicide***, edited by Daniel G. Scott.

Ekstasis Editions has been characterized by a creative spirit and resilience during more than 38 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 38 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



Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

Ekstasis Editions acknowledges the support of the Government of Canada, the B.C. Book Publishers Tax Credit and of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Canada Council for the Arts translation program.

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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."

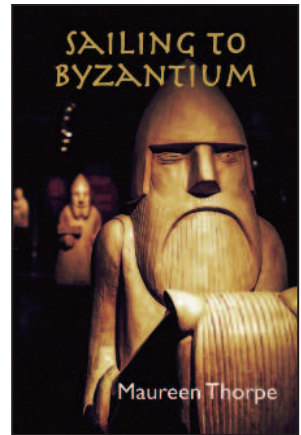
~ Kathleen Pickard. MA History

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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-384-9

Fiction

299 pages

5.5 x 8.5

\$25.95

Available

July 2020



Mingled Yarn

JOHN OLSON

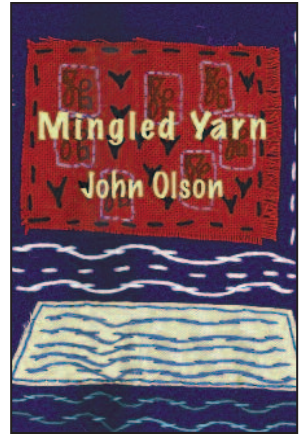
All lives, it seems, are composed of multiple strands, multiple perspectives, multiple stories & yarns. This particular weaving of a life started as a simple autobiography, following my wife's suggestion. I balked at first, since I'm neither a retired Civil War general or a former President of the United 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.

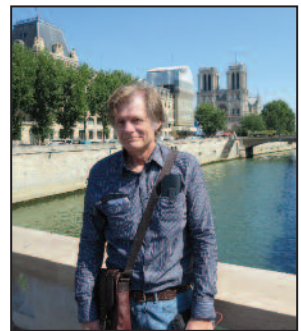
Ads: *Pacific Rim Review of Books*, *BC Bookworld*

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-404-4
Fiction
166 pages
5.5 x 8.5
\$25.95
Available
October 2020



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?

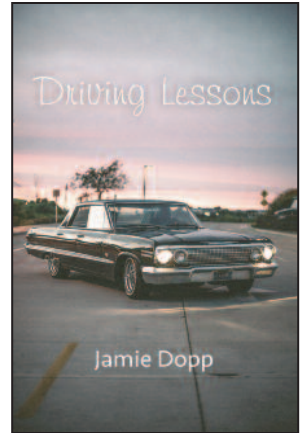
~ Bill Gaston, author of *The Good Body* and *A Mariner's Guide to Self-Sabotage*

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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-396-2

Fiction

276 pages

5.5 x 8.5

\$25.95

Available

October 2020



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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-398-6

Poetry

96 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

July 2020



Quarters

FRANCES POPE

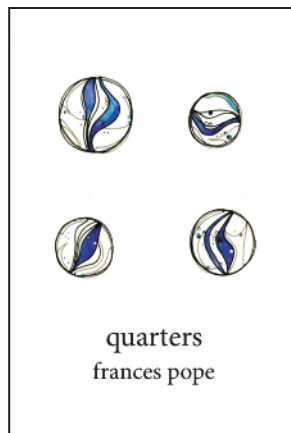
Quarters is in four parts and four places. The poem “Quarters,” itself split in four, opens each section. These are poems about family, friends, the city, and the sea. Writing, walking, words, and routes. The body, its beauty, its strangeness and sadness and life. Missing and distance. Libraries and 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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-380-1

Poetry

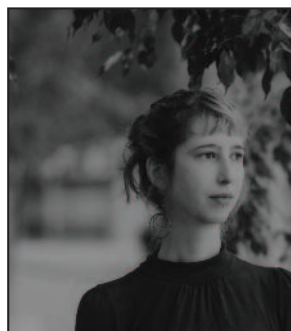
70 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

July 2020



The Eleventh Hour

CAROLYN MARIE SOUAID

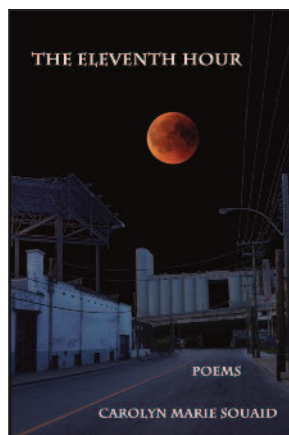
In her much-anticipated eighth collection *The Eleventh Hour*, Carolyn Marie Souaid distills the complex emergencies of the everyday with a keen eye, sharp ear and sure hand. Cycling through themes of aging, dying and the inescapable erosion of life, her poems are a poignant catalogue of finite moments, 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 Andre 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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-400-6

Poetry

70 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

August 2020



Replay 1943-1965

STEPHEN SCOBIE

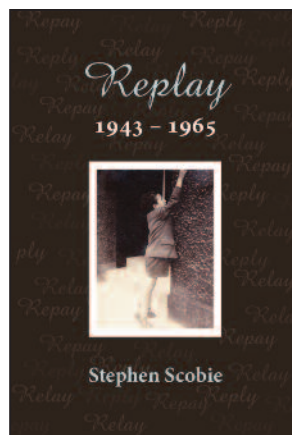
Stephen Scobie is known as a prolific Canadian poet (Governor General's Award 1980) and critic (Prix Gabrielle Roy 1986). But he was born in Scotland, in 1943, and spent the first 21 years of his life there, before coming to Canada in 1965. In this new book *Replay* (mainly poetry, part prose memoir), 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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-394-8

Poetry

96 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

August 2020



Skookum Raven

HEATHER HALEY

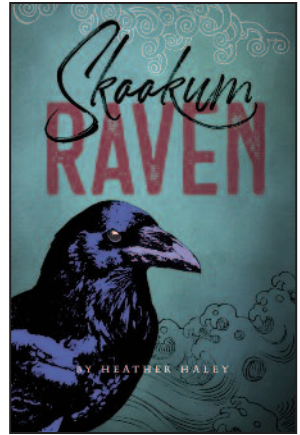
There are some rough and wild birds around Howe Sound — West Coast avians like the sharp-shinned hawk, the northern harrier, and the whiskey-jack. Heather Haley, an accomplished mapper of human migration, pair-bonding and predation, takes these feathered frenemies as her starting point in this assured 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).

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-390-0

Poetry

104 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

September 2020



Voicing Suicide

EDITED BY DANIEL G SCOTT

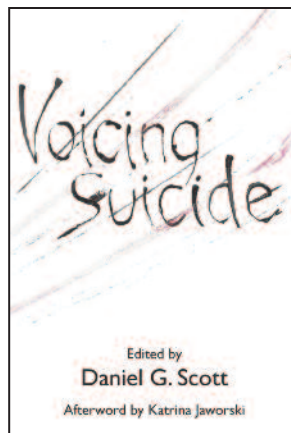
Voicing Suicide is a collection of poems about suicide and its impact on lives. The book arises out of a conviction that poetry offers an opportunity to understand some of the difficult aspects of suicide by allowing us to give it voice; through memory, and elegy, through an honest declaration of the 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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-376-4

Poetry

202 pages

6 x 9

\$24.95

Available

October 2020



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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-388-7

Poetry

90 pages

6 x 9

\$23.95

Available

October 2020



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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-406-8

Poetry

170 pages

6 x 9

\$24.95

Available

October 2020



Conatus

WALTER HILDEBRANDT

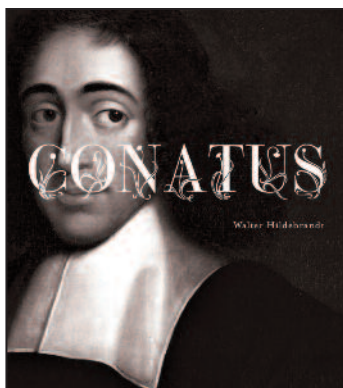
While reading Leonardo Padura's novel *Heretics* Hildebrandt became fascinated by the tolerance that existed in Havana Cuba, and Amsterdam in the Netherlands. These two cities became havens and harbours for Sephardic Jews initially driven out of the Middle East by Romans, then persecuted in Spain and 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 troubles, 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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-328-3

Poetry

88 pages

8 x 9

\$24.95

Available

October 2020



Uninterrupted

GILLIAN HARDING-RUSSELL

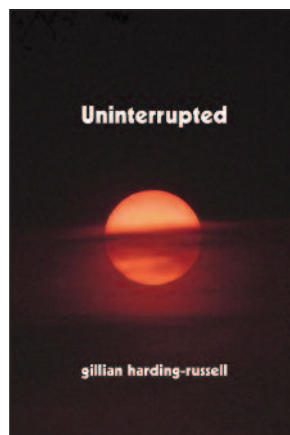
Nature in its beauty and dynamism is a fragile system that could be lost to us – though it will continue in some form without us. ‘Uninterrupted’ nature was once our home and identity, one that we looked to for meaning and solace, a world larger than ourselves – but lately we seem to have forgotten our 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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-410-5
 Poetry
 150 pages
 6 x 9
 \$24.95
 Available
 October 2020



Little Guys

SCOTT LAWRENCE & 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.

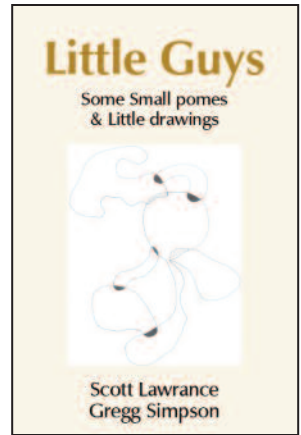
Scott Lawrence grew up outside on the fringes of Vancouver, B.C. He currently works as a Wilderness Rites-of-Passage facilitator and is busily engaged in encouraging his children and grand-children to get into as much of the good kind of trouble as they can.

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.

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

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

Review copies available.



ISBN 978-1-77171-350-4
Poetry & Art
60 pages
4 x 6
\$16.95
Available
October 2020



Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement

J. J. STEINFELD

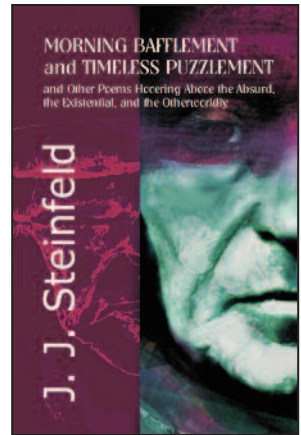
The 102 poems of *Morning Bafflement and Timeless Puzzlement* continue the dialogue with and a questioning of the human condition as they hover above what the author sees as the absurd, the existential, and otherworldly elements of life, the ordinary and the extraordinary spheres of being, that J. J. 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.

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

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Heart Work

SUSAN MCCASLIN

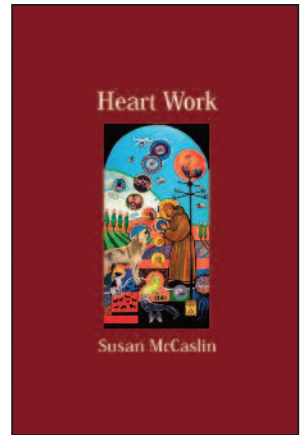
Over the decades Susan McCaslin's body of poetry has gravitated to openings where contemplative poetry and social justice kiss. *Heart Work* explores the non-dual regions of "the educated heart" where heart and mind, feeling and thinking conjoin. Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich, and John Keats 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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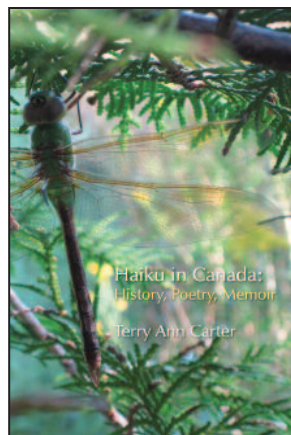


Haiku in Canada: History, Poetry, Memoir

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.



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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...

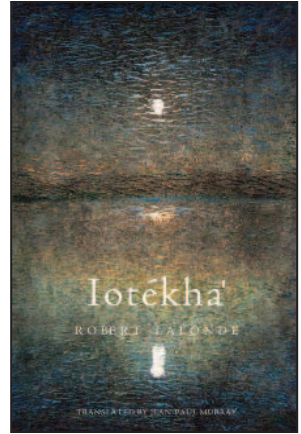
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An actor, playwright and translator, **Robert Lalonde** is one of Quebec’s leading novelists. His previous books published in translation by Ekstasis Editions include *The Ogre of Grand Remous*, *The Devil Incarnate*, *One Beautiful Day to Come*, *The 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*.



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There Once Was a Camel

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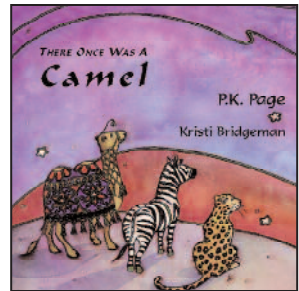
& KRISTI BRIDGEMAN

*There once was a camel
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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.

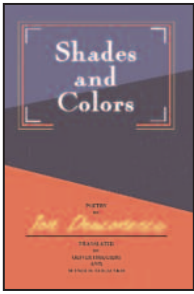
The late **P.K. Page** is one of Canada's most esteemed poets whose literary career spanned over five decades. She was the author of some twenty books including ten volumes of poetry in addition to memoir, fiction and children's titles. Winner of the Governor General's Award for Poetry in 1957, P.K. 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.



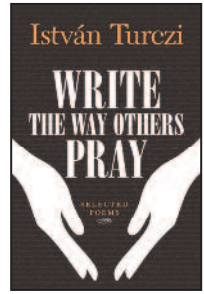
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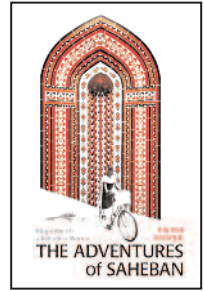
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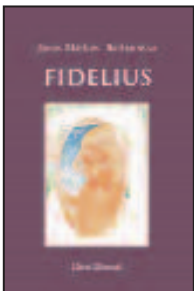
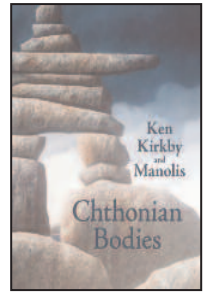
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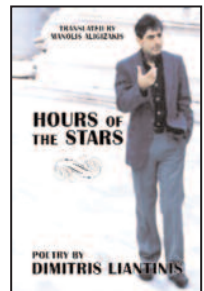
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Repairing the Hive

LINDA ROGERS

Repairing the Hive is the third and final book in The Empress Trilogy, which follows a family and diverse community through generations of social and political change to reconciliation in post-colonial Victoria. The previous volumes, *The Empress Letters* and *Tempo Rubato*, are first person accounts of the lives of women artists who struggle to thrive in a family buried in secrets and lies, genocide in Europe and the opium trade and rum running on the west Coast of America. The final book is a third person account of the community coming together to bring the post-colonial generation out of the silence as readers are asked to consider the lilies where they grow in fields nourished by history.

Linda Rogers' multi-layered narrative about East meets West finds common ground from the impact of music on our lives. Rogers brilliantly tweaks the musical imagination to pull you into the inner world of the characters.

~ Gary Karr, solo bassist

Poet, Novelist, lyricist and journalist **Linda Rogers** is a past Poet Laureate for Victoria. Her recent publications include: *Homing*, poetry from Ekstasis Editions, and *The Carter Vanderbilt Carter Anthology 2014*, from Exile Editions. She is a recipient of the Gwendolyn MacEwen Award, 2013, and the Montreal Broadside Prize, 2012. In addition to the *Empress Trilogy*, with two subsequent volumes, current projects include co-writing *The Arioso Games* with Ben Murray and Bozuk, a travel novel.



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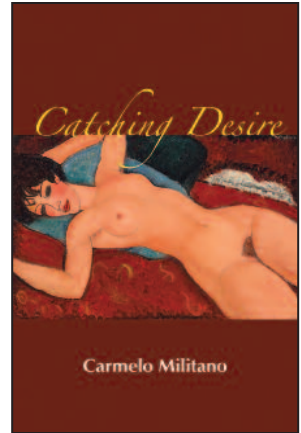


Catching Desire

CARMELO MILITANO

Carmelo Militano's new book *Catching Desire* is a personal account of the turbulent artistic life, and often erotically charged art of the **maudit**, 'damned,' Modernist painter and sculptor Amedeo Modigliani. Militano effectively mixes poetry and prose to evoke the life and art of Modigliani. The writing is rich in texture, images, and detail; a type of sensual reasoning. Modigliani's development as an artist, his tragic search for beauty, and ultimately his reach to express his vision of spiritual eroticism grounded in the flesh is the poetic heart beating inside the brain of this new book.

Carmelo Militano is the author of two books of poetry (*Morning After You* and *The Stone Mason's Notebook*) as well as three books of prose (*The Fate of Olives*, *Sebastiano's Vine* and *Lost Aria*). He is the winner of the F.G. Bressani award for poetry and each of his prose works have been short-listed for various literary awards. *Catching Desire* is his sixth book.



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Impromptu

JUDE NEALE

Jude Neale's latest collection of poetry, *Impromptu*, grew from an International Poetry Month challenge that required the writer to respond to a daily prompt, creating a poem each day for one month. The resulting selections were so compelling that Jude continued past the 30-day limit with prompts of her own, producing in 47 days a book that is fresh, insightful, and vital, venturing far beyond what initially started as a simple writing exercise.

This volume is a 21st Century exploration of the infinite mystery of love and light, taking the reader on a journey encompassing surrealism, sonnets, haiku, and many other poetic forms. It was a labour of deep inspiration, that will hopefully nudge other writers to forge new paths in their creative endeavors.

Like Jude's five previous books, this volume was written solely on her iPhone.

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.



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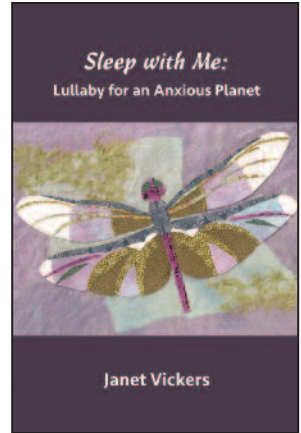
Sleep With Me: Lullaby for an Anxious Planet

JANET VICKERS

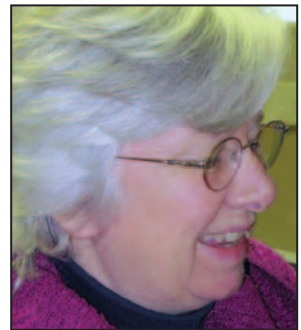
“Let me begin with a warning” heads one of Janet’s poems and readers should be warned that not all these poems are lullabies. Many home in on truths that sear into the mind and might disturb sleep. That, after all, is the job of a poet. These poems also offer: the balm of hard-won compassion for self and others, a wisdom sad and sweet, and always startling turns of phrase that pull readers to attention and possibilities for their own voices. As Janet’s poem for Greta ends, “Now the rest of us must find/ our instruments before dawn.”

~ Sonja Arntzen, Professor Emerita, University of Toronto

Janet Vickers was born in the UK, came to Canada in 1965 and became Canadian by the love and friendship of other Canadians. She married in 1969 and celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary to her husband Tony, last year. They have three children, three in-laws, one grand-dog and four grandchildren. Her previous books include *Impermanence* (2012) and *Infinite Power* (2016) published by Ekstasis Editions.



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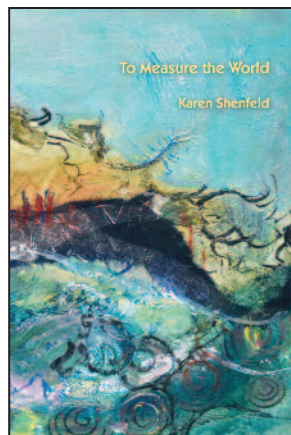


To Measure the World

KAREN SHENFIELD

In *To Measure the World*, Karen Shenfeld confronts the chimerical nature of love — erotic, domestic, familial — and its power to sustain and harm. With a language that’s immediate, transcendent, and visual, the poet celebrates conjugal love, then strips bare the self when she’s blindsided by its dissolution. She pays tribute to friends and family; she explores her evolving relationship with her mother, bearing witness to the debilitation of aging and disease with wit and compassion. Here, too, Shenfeld ventures away from the home into the world: She follows the footsteps of Keats and Tennyson to England’s Isle of Wight where she conjures a fragile landscape, “mutable as marriage,” “slip-sliding to the knowing sea.”

Karen Shenfeld has published three books of poetry with Guernica Editions: *The Law of Return* (1999), which won the Canadian Jewish Book Award for Poetry in 2001, *The Fertile Crescent* (2005), and *My Father’s Hands Spoke in Yiddish* (2010). Her poetry has also appeared in journals and anthologies published in Canada, the U.S., England, South Africa, and Bangladesh, and she has given readings nationally and internationally. Her poetry has also been featured on Canada’s CBC Radio and CKLN, and on shortwave radio programs broadcast from the U.S. and Italy. As well, Karen Shenfeld has brought her poetic sensibility to the writing of magazine stories and to filmmaking. She is currently writing a screenplay that has been optioned by the director, Bruce McDonald.



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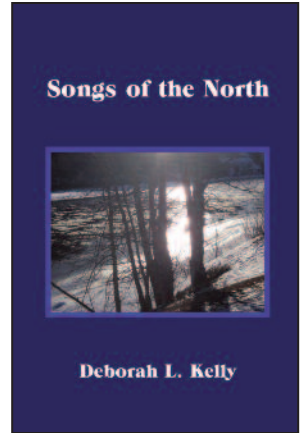


Songs of the North

DEBORAH L. KELLY

Songs of the North ... the inspired poems was written for and inspired by the many voices of Gaia. In order to reconnect, we must reclaim the balance we have lost. We must acknowledge our inner connection to all the natural energies which surround us. This collection of poems will take the reader into the deep forests of British Columbia's North. You will soar with the eagles, sit in a nest on the top of a tree, travel the banks of the mighty Nechako River, and so much more. This book will take you on a journey through one full circle in the spiral of life; let us travel through the seasons together, and smell the sweet, fresh air of the mountains mists. *Songs of the North ... the inspired poems ...* tells a story of the sacred beauties of the natural world; a renewal of the reverence and appreciation we seem to have collectively misplaced. It is a tribute to the Mother, and to the many wondrous facets of this living earth.

Deborah L. Kelly has been writing poetry for more than 40 years. Having begun writing poetry in her teenage years, she discovered that it helped her to cope with the conditions around her during her youth. The author of four published books of poetry; both in Canada and Internationally, *Deborah* always enjoys a new challenge. An award winning poet and short story writer, she lives in the beautiful forests, edging on the Land of the Midnight Sun, in Prince George, BC. It is here *Deborah* spends her time writing, gardening, and breathing in the delights of her beautiful grandchildren.



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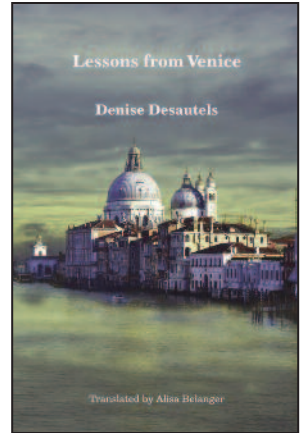
Lessons from Venice

DENISE DESAUTELS

translated by Alisa Belanger

When Denise Desautels traveled to Italy in 1988 to write about Michel Goulet's art installations at the 43rd Venice Art Biennale, she brought with her the autobiographical themes to which she frequently returns in her writing: memory, childhood, mourning. As she circled Goulet's sculptures and moved through the City of Masks, Desautels sought to look beyond their facades, exploring relationships between language, silence, place, and the self. No one could have known, however, that a mass shooting at the École Polytechnique would soon send shockwaves through Montreal. Having begun as a reflection on art and objecthood, proximity and distance, truth and illusion, *Lessons from Venice* then turned into a moving tribute to the fourteen women killed by a misogynist gunman in the Montreal Massacre on December 6, 1989.

Denise Desautels was born in Montreal. She is a past vice-president of the Académie des lettres du Québec. She won the Prix de la Fondation Les Forges for *Leçons de Venise* (1990), the original French version of *Lessons from Venice*. She also won the Governor General's Award and the Prix de la revue Estuaire for *Le saut de l'ange* (1992), the Prix de la Société des écrivains canadiens and the Prix de la Société Radio-Canada for *Tombeau de Lou* (2000). In 1999 she received La Médaille Échelon vermeil, the highest honour given by the city of Paris.



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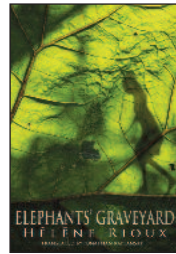
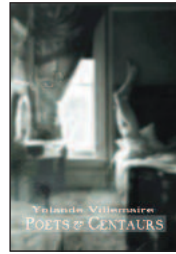
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