



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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MISSHAPENNESS

In Misshapeness, luminous poems reveal the struggle and the dislocation of the self within the world, but tempered by J.J. Steinfeld's distinctive good will and ironic humour.

It is as if Philip Roth and Franz Kafka, meeting in Van Gogh's *Night Café*, share a bottle of wine, converse and collaborate until they write as one. Like the aforementioned writers, Steinfeld's overriding theme is the absurdity of modernity and the attempt by individuals to make sense of that absurdity. *Misshapeness* records how so many elements collectively press and guide the heart as it strives for understanding and unity, even in those moments when the mystery is unresolvable and unbearable. It is a poignant book of transcendence and joy in the midst of despair. Aware of the world's beauty and its pain, one can persevere, as in the finest of Woody Allen's films, through grace and stoic acceptance. *Misshapeness* is concerned with how language and ideas influence one's perceptions of memory, the past, history, and the interaction of individuals with the world around them. The poems offer senseful glimpses into a world, past and present, that is wondrous and damaged and, ultimately, baffling.

J.J. Steinfeld is a poet, fiction writer and playwright who lives on Prince Edward Island. He has published two novels, *Our Hero in the Cradle of Confederation* (Pottersfield Press) and *Word Burials* (Crossing Chaos Enigmatic Ink), nine short story collections, the previous three by Gaspereau Press — *Should the Word Hell Be Capitalized?*, *Anton Chekhov Was Never in Charlottetown*, and *Would You Hide Me?* — and two poetry collections, *An Affection for Precipices* (Serengeti Press) and his most recent book, *Misshapeness*. His short stories and poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and periodicals internationally, and over forty of his one-act and full-length plays have been performed in Canada and the United States.



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