

 **FOUR WAY BOOKS**



**SPRING
2019**

Melanie S. Hatter

Spring 2019

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“Whether random or at the hands of authorities or of vigilantes, daily, black men and women become victims of the epidemic of gun violence sweeping the United States. *Malawi’s Sisters* considers the consequences on those left behind. An early morning phone call disrupts the seemingly placid lives of Judge Malcolm Walker and his artist wife, Bet. The Walker family, including daughters Kenya and Ghana, struggle to come to terms with what it means when those you love are taken in ways that are somehow both random as well as predictable.”

—David Haynes, Kimbilio Co-Founder and Program Director, Author of *A Star in the Face of the Sky*.

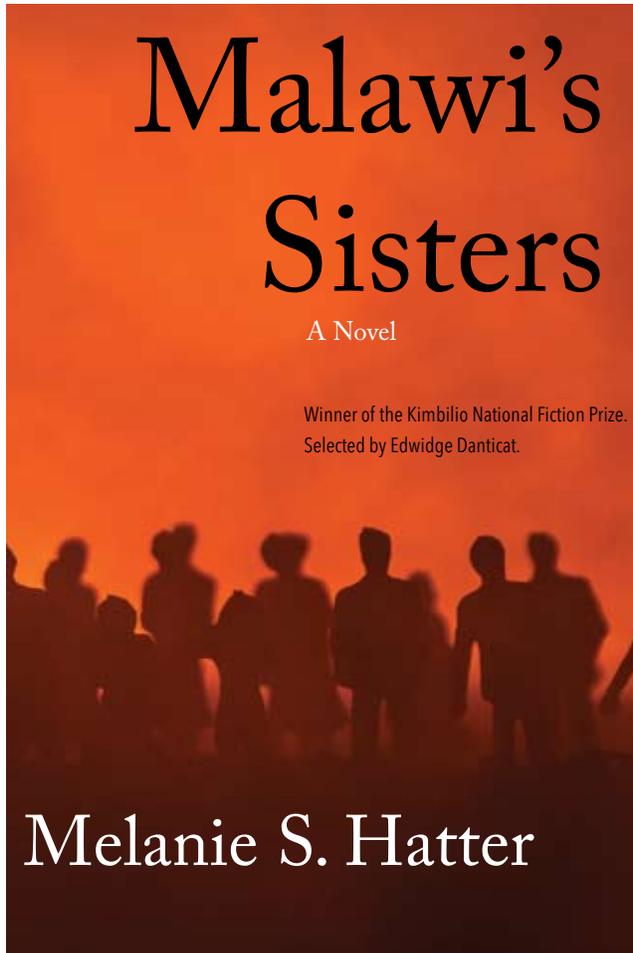
Melanie S. Hatter is the author of *The Color of My Soul*, winner of the 2011 Washington Writers’ Publishing House Fiction Prize, and *Let No One Weep for Me, Stories of Love and Loss*, a collection of short fiction. She is a participating author in the in the PEN/Faulkner Writers in Schools program in Washington, D.C., and serves on the board of the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation. She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.



Author photo by Carolina Cabanillas

SPRING

Malawi's Sisters



Winner of the inaugural Kimbilio National Fiction Prize, selected by Edwidge Danticat

Hatter's artful, moving novel looks closely at the murder of a young black woman and her family's devastation. Old—and new—questions about race and civil rights in 21st Century America arise alongside the unfolding story of Malawi and those who live in the wake of her loss.

Malawi's Sisters, Melanie S. Hatter

ISBN: 978-1-945588-30-3 \$19.95

Ebook: ISBN: 978-1-945588-34-1 \$16.95

Paper 6 x 9 320 pages

Fiction

Pub Date: March 2019

“This story is both timely and well executed. We rarely see the private side of the devastating aftermath of police / vigilante / help-seeking and shot-related deaths that this writer describes here in such a suspenseful and nuanced manner. This is the kind of book that might encourage and inspire in-depth conversations and discussions and help readers think more deeply about a subject they might have mistakenly thought they knew all about.” —Edwidge Danticat

2019 FICTION

Rigoberto González

from THE GHOSTS OF LUDLOW, 1914-2014

That winter a blizzard, a cold that crawled over
the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and covered

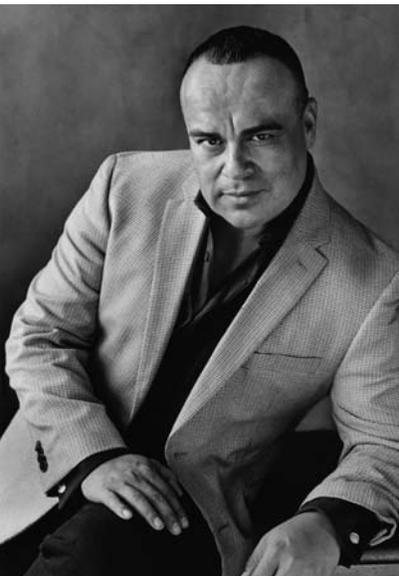
the foothills with a crust of ice.

Everything whitened into bone.

The clothesline snapped like a branch.

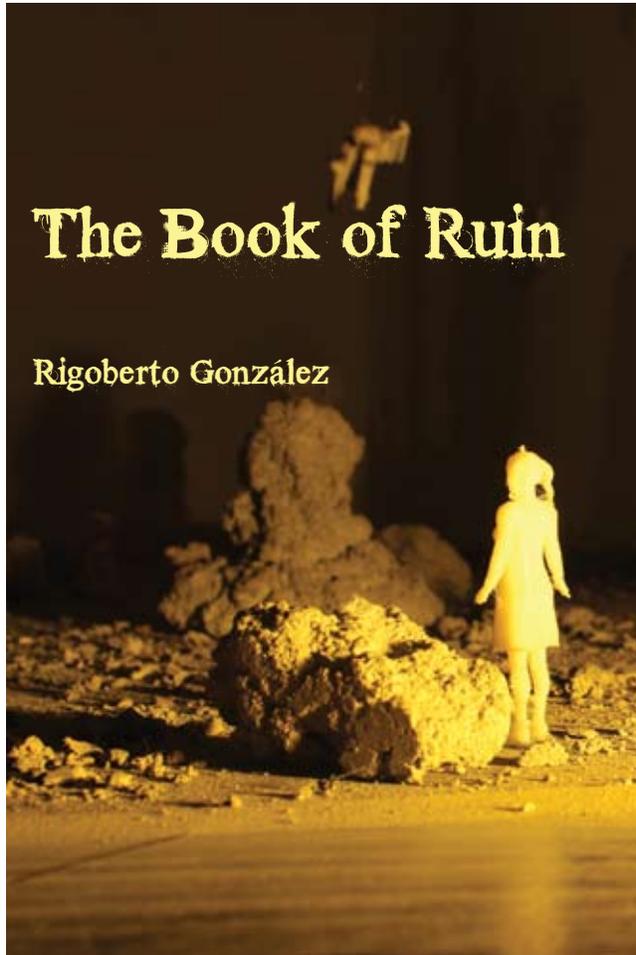
A warning shot can be understood in

any language. The entrance to the coalmine dropped
open like the mouth of a skull without eyeholes.



Rigoberto González is the author of 17 books of poetry and prose, most recently of the memoir *What Drowns the Flowers in Your Mouth*. His awards include Guggenheim, NEA, NYFA, and USA Rolón fellowships, the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation, the Lenore Marshall Prize from the Academy of American Poets, and the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. A critic at large for *The L.A. Times*, he sits on the board of trustees of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) and is currently professor of English at Rutgers-Newark, the State University of New Jersey. He lives in New York City.

The Book of Ruin



These poems consider the history of the Americas and their uncertain future, particularly regarding the danger of climate change, and suggest a line from colonialism toward a shattering “Apocalipsixtlán.”

The Book of Ruin Rigoberto González
ISBN: 978-1-945588-32-7 \$15.95
Paper 6 x 9 102 pages
Poetry
Pub Date: March 2019

“González’s *The Book of Ruin* haunts us from shore to shore, ghosting across time and language, rediscovering humanity’s capacity for light in the tomb of catastrophe. These poems are a caution tattooed onto parable and tethered to history’s breath. Delivered with unyielding craft and electrifying vision, González has been sent to remind us the fabled ways in which—*The crack in the earth, it is us. The crack in the earth, it is ours.*”
—Tyehimba Jess

“In a vital body of work that now encompasses multiple genres, Rigoberto González has been practicing the seer’s art of illuminating the social through the personal, the present and the future through the past, and the work of wonder through the work of grieving. *The Book of Ruin* is his darkest reckoning so far with the violent histories that embitter our current moment and whose damage is propelling us into a scorched hereafter . . .” —Rick Barot

Little-Known Operas



The lush, lexically gorgeous and emotionally complex poems of Little-Known Operas guide us through the terrain of love, sex, same-sex marriage, illness, death, and art.

Little-Known Operas, Patrick Donnelly
 ISBN: 978-1-945588-31-0 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 128 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: February 2019

“The poems in *Little-Known Operas* delight me with their wit, pathos, expertly executed confusion, and their sincere and exuberant wondering. When Jesus himself does the wondering—‘Jesus said, Will someone tell me, please, what this pink grass is called?’—the mystery of creation is exponentially increased, and our poet is left standing in his own world, which turns out to be a galaxy of swirling reflexes.” —Mary Ruefle

“Here is a Gospel According to Patrick Donnelly, a book of revelations of what it means to be human, to be hurt, to be awed, to be stunned by our world—and to find love late in life. It is a book of tenderness towards everyone who’s been in pain, everyone who’s been ill, everyone who’s had a mother, loved music, everyone who’s lived on this third planet from the sun. . . .” —Ilya Kaminsky

Jessica Jacobs

STRIDULATION SONNET

Tiger beetles, crickets, velvet ants, all
know the useful friction of part on part,
how rub of wing to leg, plectrum to file,
marks territories, summons mates. How

a lip rasped over finely tined ridges can
play sweet as a needle on vinyl. But
sometimes a lone body is not enough.
So a sapsucker drums the chimney flash

for our amped-up morning reveille. Or,
later, home again, the wind's papery
come hither through the locust leaves. The roof
arcing its tin back to meet the rain.

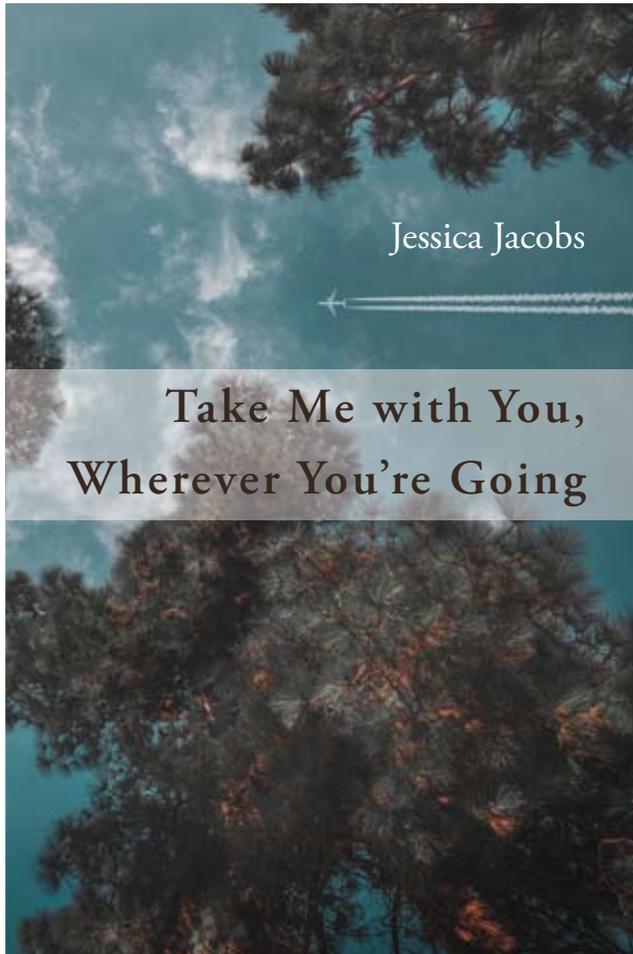
The bed's soft creak as I roll to my side.
What sounds will your body make against mine?



Author photo by Lily Darragh

Jessica Jacobs is the author of *Pelvis with Distance* (White Pine Press, 2015), a biography-in-poems of Georgia O'Keeffe, winner of the New Mexico Book Award in Poetry and a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Her chapbook *In Whatever Light Left to Us* was published by Sibling Rivalry Press in 2016. Her poetry, essays, and fiction have appeared in publications including *Crazyhorse*, *The Missouri Review*, *New England Review*, *Orion*, and the *Oxford American*. An avid long-distance runner, Jessica has worked as a rock climbing instructor, bartender, editor, and professor, and is now the Associate Editor of the *Beloit Poetry Journal*. She lives, with her wife, the poet Nickole Brown, in Asheville, North Carolina.

Take Me with You, Wherever You're Going



A memoir-in-poems about coming of age in sultry Florida and navigating a complex lesbian relationship grounded in the daily world.

Take Me with You, Wherever You're Going,
Jessica Jacobs
ISBN: 978-1-945588-26-6 \$15.95
Paper 6 x 9 128 pages
Poetry
Pub Date: March 2019

"I'm totally certain Jessica Jacobs' book is going to save someone's life. . . . An honest, activist, real world dream of a book. A treasure."

—Gabrielle Calvocoressi

"All great love stories deserve to be written down for history's sake. With *Take Me with You, Wherever You're Going*, Jessica Jacobs gives us an intimate, sensual, desirous book full of real life hardships and an epic love story of surrender and survival. Rooted in landscape and written with a rich lyrical line, these gorgeous poems pay necessary homage to what truly matters." —Ada Limón

Laure-Anne Bosselaar

[So, how are you?]

So, how are you? friends ask, all kindness & concern,
heads cocked, eyes locked in mine.

&, just like that, I'm his again:
his wife, his widow: the one whose name

was hyphenated to his — & I'm oddly
happy to speak about

myself, coupled to him again, finally,
& say I'm okay, better, but won't say

his name out loud yet because I know
I'd throw a shadow over the conversation —

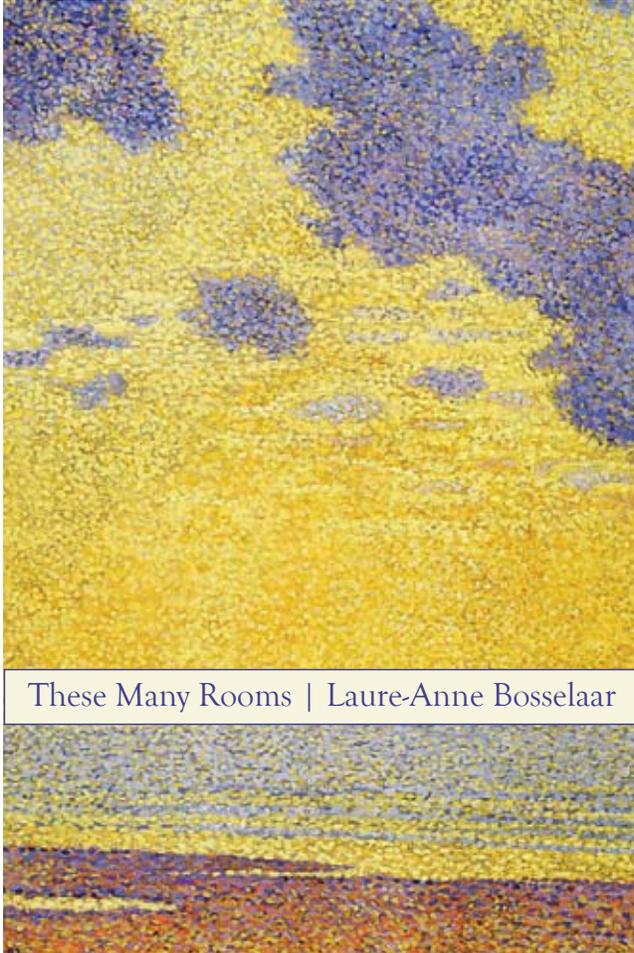
all kindness & concern — & over him also,
who no longer has a shadow.



Laure-Anne Bosselaar is the author of *The Hour Between Dog and Wolf* and *Small Gods of Grief*, which was awarded the Isabella Gardner Prize for Poetry in 2001. Her third poetry collection, *A New Hunger*, was selected as an ALA Notable Book in 2008. She is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and her work has been widely anthologized. Garrison Keillor read four of her poems on NPR's *The Writer's Almanac*. She is the editor of four anthologies: *Night Out: Poems about Hotels, Motels, Restaurants and Bars*; *Outsiders: Poems about Rebels, Exiles and Renegades*; *Urban Nature: Poems about Wildlife in the Cities*; and *Never Before: Poems About First Experiences*. Bosselaar has taught at Emerson College in Boston, Sarah Lawrence College in New York, and the College for Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara; she is a member of the founding faculty at the Low-Residency MFA Program at Pine Manor College. She also offers private mentoring and poetry editing services. Bosselaar lives in Santa Barbara, California.

Author photo by Stacey J. Byers

These Many Rooms



With the speaker of Bosselaar's poems, we move through dark rooms of grief, finding our way into the light of quiet solitude.

These Many Rooms, Laure-Anne Bosselaar
 ISBN: 978-1-945588-27-3 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 86 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: February 2019

“... In language that’s simultaneously inventive and plainspoken, Bosselaar charges the ordinary world with the electricity of memory and emotion, so that we feel the missing person’s presence everywhere. *These Many Rooms* is moving, profound, and unforgettable, not the least because it shows us how beauty can be both a solace and a wound. This is a book I’ll return to again and again.” —Chase Twichell

“... In *These Many Rooms*, Laure-Anne Bosselaar breaks open this silence, writing frankly and with sublime grace on this difficult walk. As she chronicles life after the sudden passing of her husband, the wonderful poet Kurt Brown, we are offered an intricately detailed map of that half-lit wilderness each person must enter when confronted by overwhelming loss.” —Tim Seibles

Mark Conway

IN THE BLIZZARD

the horses are filthy in their winter coats
 grubby and matted
 manes mended with hay ::
 they shuffle /
 heads down—flickering
 homeward between
 snows like medieval pilgrims: seen
 and invisible /
 unseen and real . . .
 the blizzard continues and the world is the wind
 our eyes close to slits
 inside the drift and the howl
 the horses aren't ours / not even broken to ride
 still they help us get home
 as we look into the wind
 seeing nothing but whiteness ahead
 with them dark inside



Mark Conway is the author of three books of poetry. His poems have appeared in the Academy of American Poets' *Poem-a-Day* series, *The American Poetry Review*, *Bomb*, *Harvard Review*, *Kenyon Review On-line*, *The Paris Review*, *PBS NewsHour*, *Ploughshares*, and *Slate*, along with critical essays in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature*. He has received fellowships from the McKnight Foundation, Jerome Foundation, the Corporation of Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony. He lives north of the driftless region in the Avon hills of Minnesota.

Author photo by Marnie Sweeney

rivers of the driftless region ¹¹



Conway's spare, imagistic poems concern the implications of eternity: which offers no past or future but rather an ever-present now.

rivers of the driftless region, Mark Conway
ISBN: 978-1-945588-29-7 \$15.95
Paper 6 x 9 108 pages
Poetry
Pub Date: March 2019

“Intensely aware of the ways that violence and humiliation conspire not just to silence voices but also the capacity to think, Mark Conway has written a dazzling quest-rodeo of the inner life. *rivers of the driftless region* takes us inside the lush, divided terrain of the mind . . .” —Mary Szybist

Past Praise:

“Reading these poems, I hear the clatter of my own footsteps through cities of hieroglyphs and pinball machines—a paradise run-through with ghosts, whom Conway conjures with grit and grace. *Dreaming Man, Face Down* hits me in the head and heart with image after stunning image, and the hard true language of love and regret.” —Tracy K. Smith

Sam Ross

BOWERS V. HARDWICK

I've learned cause and effect.
I know because the parade-float
is outside my window, brass snorkels
catch the light of the sky like a bell.

There will be pieces of pink paper
in the street, and some will melt
after the day's rain and some will burn
on into the night. How could it be otherwise?

I know we endured all the words—
and we must forget them for now,
as if they were skywriting, fading white.

Some urge us, some warn us not to transgress
what is deeply unspeakable.
But then, who am I going to talk to here?

Someone turn on the radio, someone
sing with me—please.

Or we can just spend a day
drawing dirty pictures of each other.
There's time. Wasn't it you
who promised me the music would last
all afternoon?



Sam Ross has received fellowships and support from Columbia University, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Watermill Center, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. His work has appeared in the *Denver Quarterly*, *New Republic*, *Tin House*, and elsewhere. He grew up in Indiana and lives in New York City.

Company



Winner of the Four Way Books
Levis Prize in Poetry,
selected by Carl Phillips

Ross's poems are at once earthy and delicate and view their subjects through a perceptive, picaresque lens.

Company, Sam Ross
ISBN 978-1-945588-33-4 \$15.95
Paper 6 x 9 112 pages
Poetry
Pub Date: February 2019

“... Ross pitches nothing less than a stubborn belief in tenderness and in the patience both to look everywhere for it and to trustingly wait for it (‘I would learn rare // and love and want and wait. / I had to start at the beginning.’) This is a debut both tough and tender, the poems of a man who’s been made to look away from the world plenty, and has found a way to look steadily back.” —Carl Phillips

Carl Adamshick

BLACK SNOW

I came home
from my mother's funeral

to a house of my own making

to dust I didn't want
to lift from a shelf

I came home astonished
by life being the same

struck dumb
when the knife
sunk into the melon

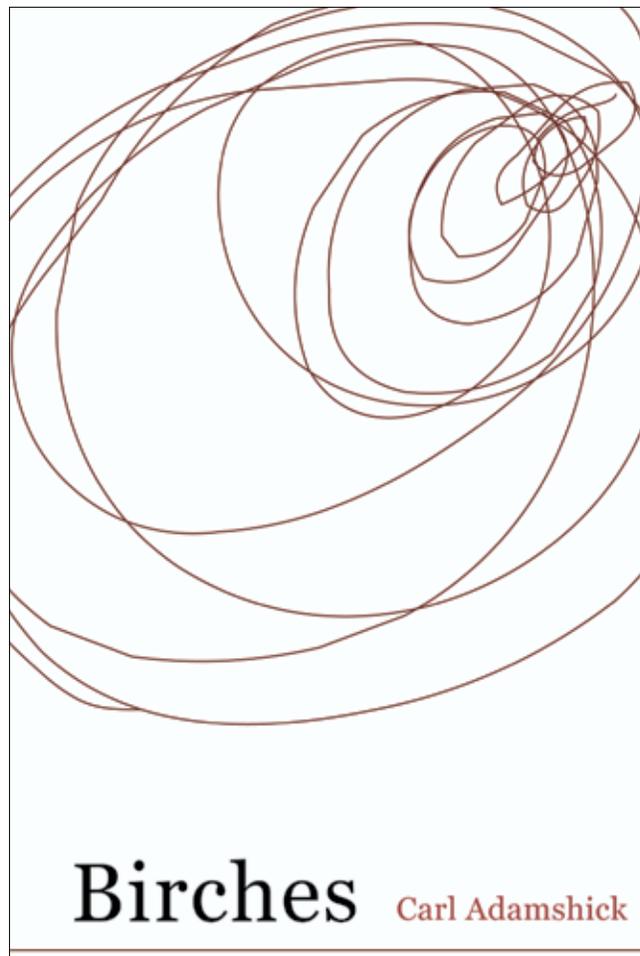


Carl Adamshick works as editor of Tavern Books, a non-profit publisher dedicated to poetry and the preservation of books and book culture. His published works include *Curses and Wishes*, recipient of the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, *Saint Friend*, and *Receipt*. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

Author photo by Julie Keefe

SPRING

Birches



Brutal and tender, Adamshick's spare poems recount a son's unsentimental and powerful love for his mother, while contemplating, in the wake of her death, what it is to be truly alive.

Birches, Carl Adamshick
 ISBN: 978-1-945588-24-2 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 88 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: February 2019

“Carl Adamshick’s *Birches* is a bracing gorgeous threnody not sung but spoken in brief poems that recount a son’s unsentimental love for a mother as he tends to her through her dying. . . . [T]his book wrecks me, and calms me, and is an apologia for love, its intimacies made into art. It is also deeply human, arguing in poems of enormous beauty that ‘we share what it means to live’ when ‘it’s evening in the box of the world.’” —Catherine Barnett

“Carl Adamshick’s new poems watch over his dying mother. Ornament has been stripped from this collection. Need drives the poems—a need to tell the truth, a need to fix in time what can never be fixed: life. Adamshick’s great talent and concision with his art bear down on every line. . . . I marvel how the work holds and honors this mother for us, refining her into something genuine and lasting: what other art does that more clearly than poetry?” —Spencer Reece

Diane Mehta

ANKLES LIKE ANCIENT BIRDS

I am musing for amusements,
Looking for something good.

Ancestral spirits back me up.
I am searching, and they are heaven-sent.
What is beautiful? It lasts an instant.

I hand out lists of lovers and reflections.
Someone writes me a letter in seismographic beeps.
This urn, that eclipse, a nightingale, all of it true—

I despise losing but do it masterfully.
(The dead pull on my ankles like ancient birds,
my soul, they think, in reach.)

And if sea sirens and shadow-making revelations
are stage tricks? If these are standard griefs?

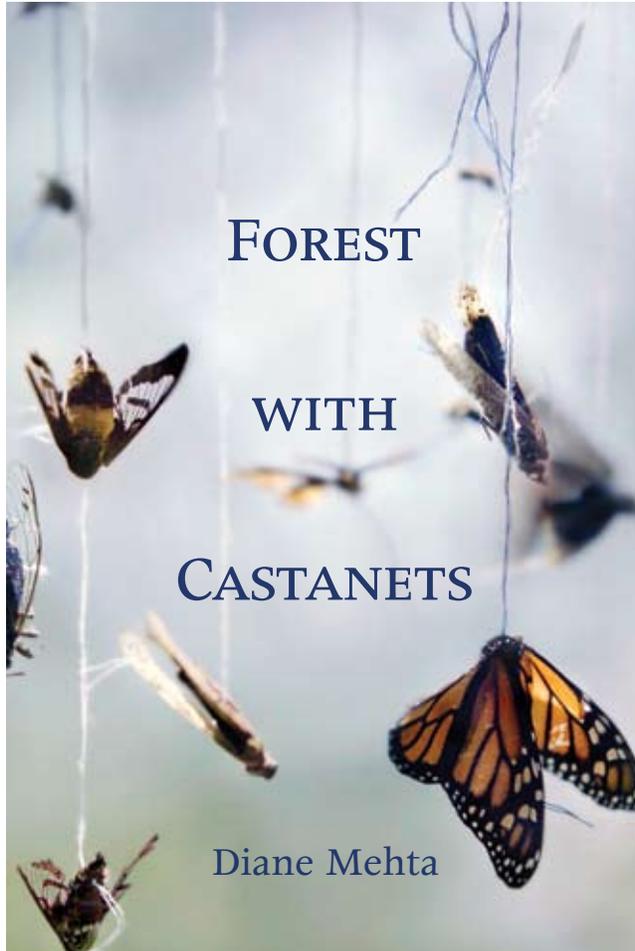
Born in Frankfurt, Germany, and raised in Bombay and New Jersey, Diane Mehta studied with Derek Walcott and Robert Pinsky in the nineties and has been an editor at PEN America's *Glossolalia*, *Guernica*, and *A Public Space*. Her book about writing poetry was published by Barnes & Noble books in 2005. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.



Author photo by David Yellen

SPRING

Forest with Castanets



In her debut book of poems, knit together with personal essays, Mehta explores her own cultural history—Indian Jainism and American Judaism—as well as her ideas about faith, feminism, and family.

Forest with Castanets, Diane Mehta
 ISBN: 978-1-945588-25-9 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 110 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: March 2019

“Candor and music are Diane Mehta’s great strengths as an artist, and with them she brings fresh, stereotype-busting insight to subjects like ethnicity, marriage, sex, religion, the multiple, intertwined horrors and gifts of the past: the force of the storm and the answering force of human struggles and constructions. It’s thrilling to read a poet who masters that range of material so lucidly, in her own distinctive way.” —Robert Pinsky

“... Mehta, in *Forest with Castanets*, reminds us of just what striking poetry can emerge from an imagination disciplined and venturesome enough to take advantage of the rich, complicated histories that we are all given, and in doing this she manages to compose and sing the ‘sea-chants of dead immigrants.’ Diane Mehta is a poet of unquestionable skill and authority who has learned to ground her poems in the most intimate and difficult institution, the family.” —Kwame Dawes

Marcia Pelletiere

MALADY OF RECOGNIZE

Slow is how
the shapes
randomly

shift before they
gather names
behind the eyes.
Inside this skull
can you find signs
of what erratic charge

came piercing,
reckless, in? Who can

tip back the faulty weight
whose slivered ends
cracked the mast

where seamlessness
had been?



Marcia Pelletiere is a poet, singer / composer, and interdisciplinary artist. Her previous poetry collections are *Miracle with Roasted Hens* (Spit, Bite Press, 2011) and *Little Noises*, a double CD set of her poems set to music by over 25 musicians (Saf'lini Music, 2005). Marcia is a co-founding member of the New York City a cappella group The Accidentals. She's a graduate of the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers. She has been a teaching artist at various colleges and arts organizations, and currently offers presentations at universities and medical centers about her recovery from a mild traumatic brain injury. Marcia was born and raised in Massachusetts, spent the next 28 years in NYC, and currently lives in New Jersey.

Author photo by Annie Kim

SPRING

A Crown of Hornets



Pelletiere's poems convey a visceral sense of the poet's harrowing recovery from brain injury after a car – truck accident that altered her experience of both body and language.

A Crown of Hornets, Marcia Pelletiere
 ISBN: 978-1-945588-28-0 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 86 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: March 2019

“Marcia Pelletiere’s astonishing new collection achieves a melding of form and content that is rare in our time. Working from autobiographical material, she has fashioned a poetic language that transmits both denotatively and metaphorically the peculiar linguistic and visual symptoms of traumatic brain injury. Endowed with a huge lexicon, and strengthened by a storehouse of dynamic syntax, Pelletiere’s poems shimmer and shine even as they break us apart with their masterful evocations of woundedness, and the poet’s determined search for wholeness after illness.”
 —Kate Daniels

“Marcia Pelletiere’s work is nothing short of miraculous. In this breathtaking collection, she portrays the sudden terrifying loss, and arduous regaining, of her sense of self. The rhythm and music of her poems are transformative; we experience them on a visceral level, as if the words were not merely written to be read, but to be etched directly into our bodies and minds.” —Helen Fremont

RECENT

Monica Ferrell

You Darling Thing

ISBN-13: 978-1-945588-22-8

\$15.95

Paper 6 x 9 88 pages

Poetry

Pub Date: September 2018



“Throughout this striking collection, Ferrell balances elegance and chaos, beauty and urgency, lyricism with a veiled threat.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred Review
September, 2018

“...This lively, subversive book is fascinated by questions of feminism and femininity — womanhood as it is lived, and as it is socially constructed...”

—from “New & Noteworthy” by
Peter Catapano, *The New York Times*,
October 30, 2018

Cynthia Cruz

Dregs

ISBN-13: 978-1-945588-18-1

\$15.95

Paper 6 x 9 68 pages

Poetry

Pub Date: September 2018

(*Publishers Weekly* Top 10
Fall 2018 Poetry List)



“One of contemporary poetry’s most astute cartographers of ruin, Cruz sifts through the wreckage of war and human immiseration only to leave in her wake a languid dreamscape of jagged edges.”

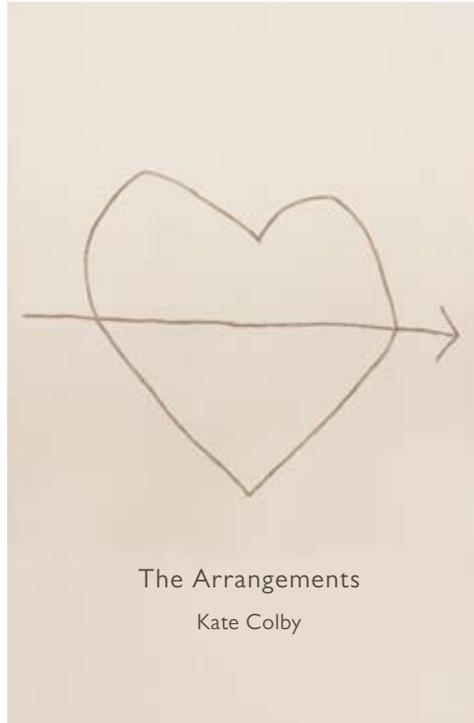
—*Publishers Weekly*, Top 10 Fall 2018
Poetry List

Kate Colby

The Arrangements

“Counteractions, counterindications, and impossible interactions mark this meticulously crafted and sonically alluring seventh collection from Colby . . . The pleasures of Colby’s language combine to create tension with the existential anxieties her speaker presents, including those surrounding the nature of embodiment, the potential dangers of light, and the cumulative nature of time. . . Readers may come away from this collection with simultaneous feelings of dread and wisdom, as well as a deep admiration for Colby’s almost obsessively focused eye for detail.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, September, 2018



ISBN-13: 978-1-945588-21-1
 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 96 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: September 2018

Aaron Coleman

Threat Come Close

“In *Threat Come Close* Aaron Coleman’s tremendous compassion rides the rails of lyrical, intellectual, and technical acuity.”

—Terrance Hayes

“... the emotion is real.”

—Barbara Hoffert for
Library Journal



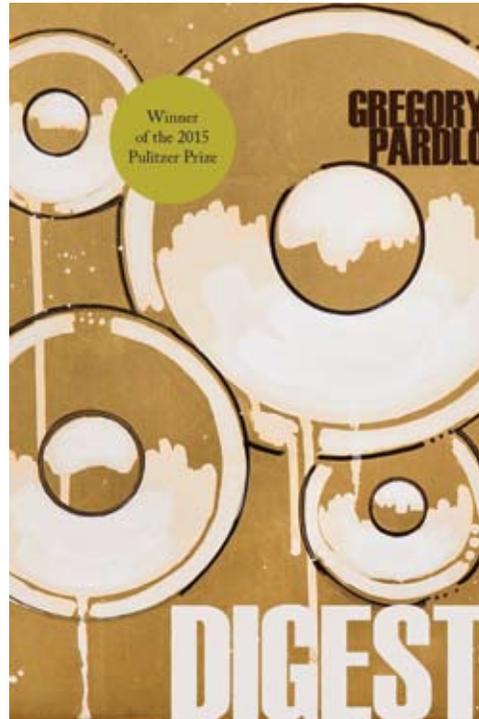
ISBN-13: 978-1-945588-04-4
 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 90 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: March 2018

Gregory Pardlo

Digest

“A bright-red thread of fatherhood runs through this book—at times tenuous, at times mythic”

—Nick Flynn



ISBN-13: 978-1-935536-50-5
\$15.95
Paper 6 x 9 76 pages
Poetry
Pub Date: September 2014

Digest is the winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, an Editor's Choice in Poetry for Shelf Unbound 2016, a nominee for the 2015 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, the recipient of an honorable mention for the *Foreword Reviews'* 2014 IndieFab Book of the Year Award in Poetry, and was nominated for the 46th NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry.

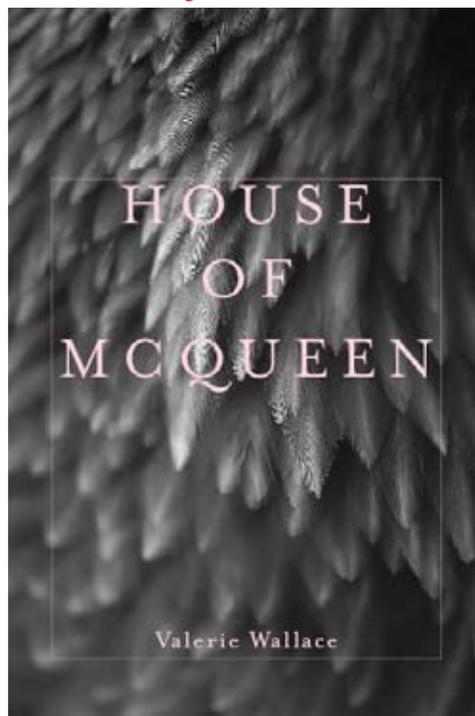
Digest was selected as *The New York Times* “10 Favorite Poetry Books of 2014.”

Valerie Wallace

House of McQueen

“Wallace’s poetic exploration of the late Alexander McQueen’s life and work is truly fascinating, a gorgeous translation of reality into something mythical and timeless.”

—*Chicago Review of Books*



Paper 6 x 9 66 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1-945588-11-2
\$15.95
Poetry
Pub Date: March 2018

“...In *House of McQueen*, she dresses the mannequin of the artist’s biographical outline in masks and materials that evoke the ‘vulgar joy’ in which McQueen reveled, leaving the reader with a renewed sense of the meaning of his own too-brief life.”

—Kathleen Rooney, *Chicago Tribune*

“Wallace conducts a literary seance in her transcendent debut . . .”

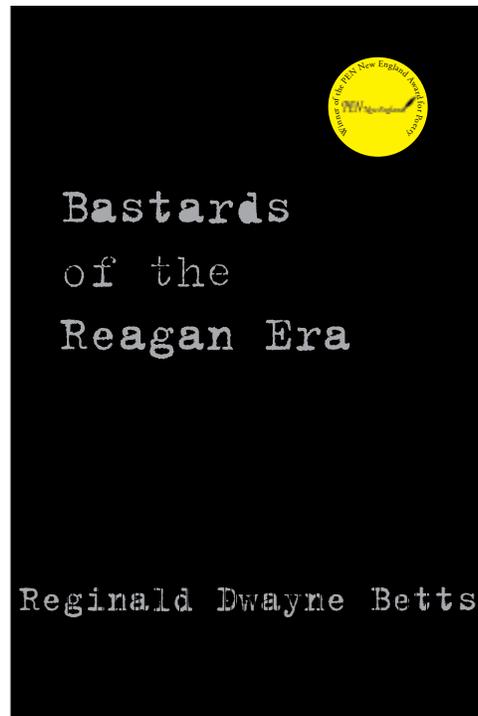
—*Publishers Weekly*,
Starred Review

ISBN-13: 978-1-935536-65-9
 \$15.95
 Paper 6 x 9 72 pages
 Poetry
 Pub Date: September 2015

Bastards of the Reagan Era by Reginald Dwayne Betts is the winner of the 2016 PEN New England Award in Poetry, the 2015 IndieFab Book of the Year for Poetry, a winner of the National Council on Crime & Delinquency's (NCCD) 2016 Media for a Just Society Award, and the 2016 Housatonic Book Award.

Reginald Dwayne Betts

Bastards of the Reagan Era



“*Bastards of the Reagan Era*, Mr. Betts’s second volume of verse, demonstrates his ability to use the musical power of words to convey what it is like to grow up black and marginalized, and the crushing, humiliating experience of prison.”

—Michiko Kakutani,
The New York Times

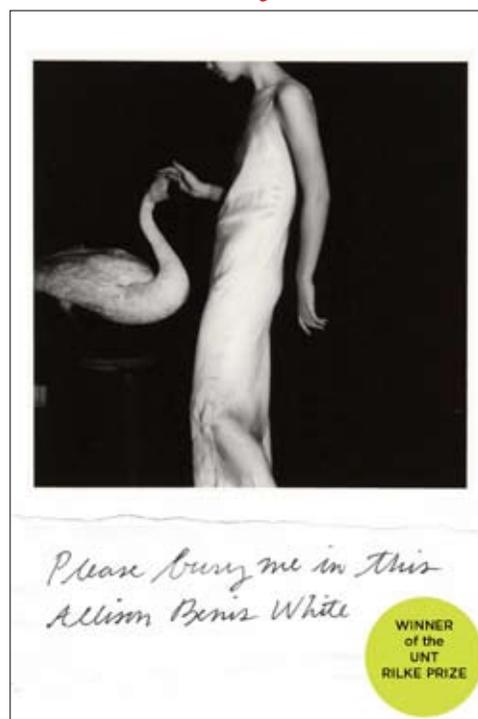


Allison Benis White

Please Bury Me in This

Paper 6 x 9 72 pages
 ISBN-13: 978-1-935536-83-3
 \$15.95
 Poetry
 Pub Date: March 2017

Please Bury Me in This by Allison Benis White was selected as *Publishers Weekly’s* Book of the Week, as the winner of the 2018 UNT Rilke Prize, and Silver Winner for Poetry.



“White’s courageous and provocative collection inspires hope by reminding readers that strength can be found in the most desolate places: ‘What is more beautiful than the hopeless singing?’”

— *Publishers Weekly*



Welcome to Four Way Books

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Martha Rhodes, Director

Sally Ball, Associate Director

Ryan Murphy, Associate Director

Clarissa Long, Publicity Director & Assistant Editor

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Four Way Books: Our Mission

Four Way Books is dedicated to producing and promoting excellent literary publications and to creating opportunities for writers of merit. We believe that the work of writers brings good to the world—understanding, empathy, curiosity, wisdom—and that if we can be the conduit for connecting writers and readers, for making a writer’s life more meaningful by bringing validation to the artist and fine work to public attention, we are spending our days nobly.

Our Philosophy

Four Way Books seeks to please and expand poetry’s audience and to nurture the gifts of adult writers, spanning a wide range of geographic, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Our hope is to support our authors not only during the time we are publishing them but also throughout their writing careers by inviting them to participate in events, offering residency opportunities when possible, and making it known that our door is open to them. In addition to publishing excellent literary works, we provide our authors with the encouragement and support necessary for the longevity and success of careers in the arts. Well into its third decade, Four Way Books acquires and lovingly produces important, surprising, and potent works for readers, who consistently tell us they are glad we are here—eclectically, steadily, and passionately here.

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Four Way Books is a proud member of the Community of Literary Magazines and Presses.

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