



Brick Books



Fall 2009

Publishing new and established voices in Canadian poetry since 1975

## Other People's Lives

CHRIS HUTCHINSON

**Exciting music, delicious ironies, radiant self-awareness.**

With imagination, wit and scrupulous candour, Chris Hutchinson's poems negotiate and renegotiate the shifting no-man's-land between self and others, introspection and public life. Here are poems carrying unflinching perceptions on their own innovative, edgy music, refusing inflations of rhetoric and complacent notions of the inner life, bringing skeptical intelligence and radical imagination—those supposedly incompatible room-mates—into electrical connection. The result is a poetry of daring honesty, close observation, and humanity, executed with exhilarating verve and humour.

Each day's a notch on the oven dial  
the sadistic hand of summer turns. The locals here  
wear mirrored glasses with the mirrors reversed!  
Was I ever filled with sweetness and courage?  
For miles and miles the asphalt unwinds, the river's  
evil twin. So is desire your enemy's friend,  
goes the jazz of imagined footsteps

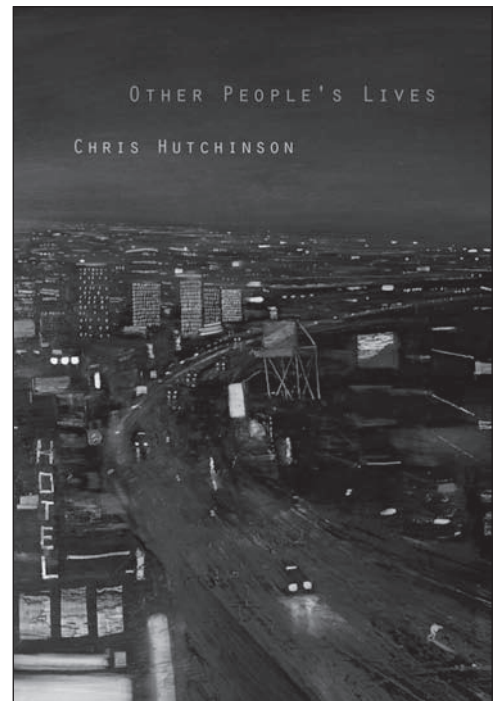
slapping the city's impervious skin. So each day  
lapses, un-spools each night as I go scheming  
ways to continue, safe within and darkly through  
an immaterial sublime. But the walls are sweating  
and the windows here peer in towards this sheltered  
corner of the universe—where I'm in trouble again  
with words, and other people's lives.

– from "Cross-sections"

"A tender work of trouble and troubles, cracked language, courage. Peer into the cocked eye of this book and discover yourself staring back. A maker of strange and wonder, Chris Hutchinson writes poems that 'shimmer, break softly open, at once ourselves, and other.'" – Matt Rader

Chris Hutchinson was born in Montreal and has lived in Victoria, Edmonton, Vancouver and most recently Phoenix, Arizona. His poems have been translated into Chinese and have appeared in numerous Canadian and U.S. publications. He is the author of the poetry collection, *Unfamiliar Weather* (Muses' Company, 2005).

- Promotional plans:
- Launch in Vancouver.
  - Possible group launch with other Brick Fall 2009 books in Victoria.
  - Tour to Edmonton, Montreal, Toronto, Fredericton, Newfoundland, and Arizona.
  - National review copy mailing.
  - Advertisements in selected literary magazines.
  - Facebook and email campaign and Brick Book Club.
  - Poem postcards and bookmarks.

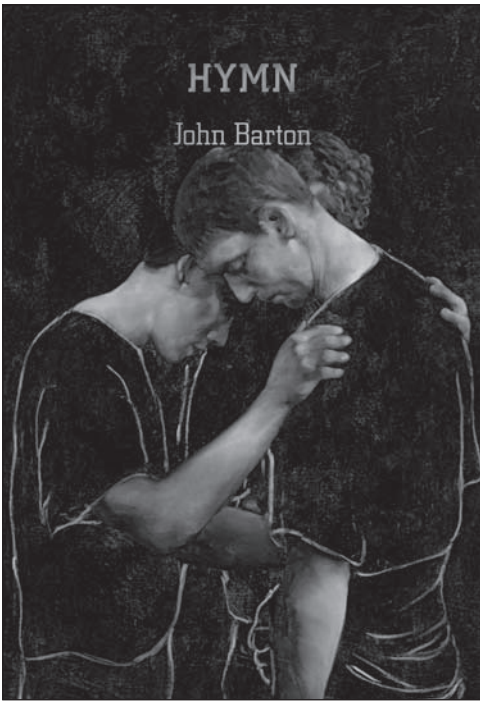


6 x 8.75 inches, 128 pages  
ISBN 1-894078-75-6  
978-1-894078-75-7  
Trade paperback  
\$19.00  
July 2009

Of related interest:

*The Vicinity*  
David O'Meara  
1-894078-30-6  
978-1-894078-30-6  
Paperback \$15.00

# Fall 2009 Frontlist



## Hymn

JOHN BARTON

**A journey in search of love through the contemporary homoerotic male body.**

Improvising on a variety of poetic forms and traversing disparate landscapes—from Belfast to the clear-cuts of Vancouver Island, from the subterranean heat of Jules Verne’s Iceland to the ventriloquism of the Alberta Rockies’ echoing eastern slopes—John Barton documents the path of the male body in an increasingly unstable, supposedly tolerant contemporary world. *Hymn* stokes the fires of homoerotic romantic love with its polar extremes of intimacy and solitude.

...though he files all forethought of the unknown life now going

on without him, a life he confuses with his own, his life promiscuous however rearranged his surfaces or clean his drawers, the unclarifying

distractions of the body portentous in his downfall, the downfall of his own body a matter of time, but thinking of the man who left

the accidental man come between them, the man he may yet become it is impossible for him not to sing them unwashed hymns of praise.

– from “Hymn”

6 x 8.75 inches, 144 pages  
ISBN 1-894078-76-4  
978-1-894078-76-4  
Trade paperback  
\$19.00  
August 2009

Barton’s previous books include *Great Men, Designs from the Interior*, *Sweet Ellipsis*, and *Hypothesis*. *West of Darkness: Emily Carr, a self-portrait*, his acclaimed third book, was republished in a bilingual edition in 2006. Co-editor of *Seminal: The Anthology of Canada’s Gay Male Poets*, he lives in Victoria. Barton edits *The Malahat Review*. *Hymn* is his ninth collection.

“It would be easy to describe *Hymn* as a collection of dream recitations, of flights on magic carpets and crashes through bewitched mirrors—except for the fact that Barton is an eyes-wide-open, no-prisoners kind of guy. He misses nothing, not even when he’s asleep. This is not dreamy poetry (anybody can do that) but poetry that asks us to dream in the bald daylight, shows us how to look lovingly at both the squalor and the garden paths beneath our feet.” – R.M. Vaughan

Of related interest:

*Love Outlandish*  
Barry Dempster  
1-894078-70-5  
978-1-894078-70-2  
Paperback \$19.00

- Promotional plans:
- Launch in Victoria.
  - Tour to Vancouver, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Kingston, Peterborough, Ottawa, Montreal.
  - National review copy mailing.
  - Advertisements in selected literary magazines.
  - Facebook and email campaign and Brick Book Club.
  - Poem postcards and bookmarks.

## Could be

HEATHER CADSBY

Poems about the unexpected and often wry coincidences language lends to life.

In *Could be*, each poem is a moment of engaged and isolated attention, prodding language, relationships, the mundane aspects of daily life, friendships and art. It asks how we use words, how we shape them and are in turn shaped by them. In many ways, then, this book is about how we construct our world through language, and how language unexpectedly shifts the terms on us. It is wry, funny, moving and at times disturbing. It will quietly assert itself, as so often language itself does, and will challenge readers to reconsider how they engage with words and world.

Fly you, wildbird  
half eaten by the smog.  
All sheets to the wind. Oh oh  
is it laundry day?  
    ...We wake up  
to the sounds of development.  
Is that Mimico Creek  
in the washing machine? If you roll over  
you're out of the dream and your anger  
can really take shape. Sorry,  
I meant passion.

– from “Perpetual Cleanup”

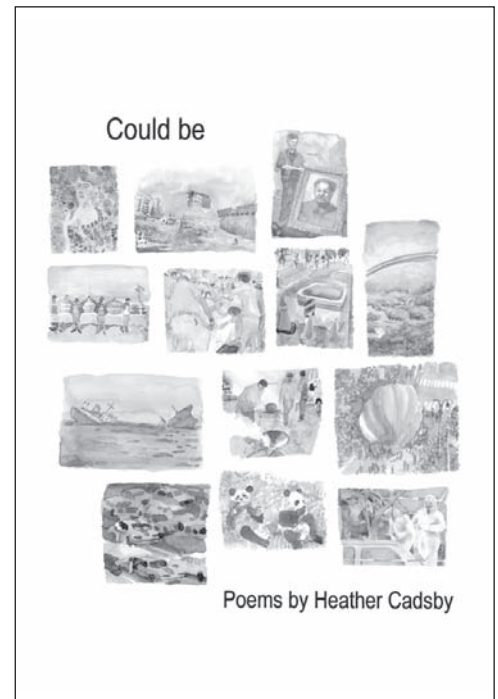
Heather Cadsby was born in Belleville, Ontario and moved to Toronto at a young age. She obtained a BA degree from McMaster University and taught elementary school for a number of years. In the 1980s she helped organize poetry readings at the Axle-Tree Coffee House in Toronto. A co-founder of the poetry press Wolsak and Wynn, she has recently served as a director of the Art Bar Poetry Series. *Could be* is her fourth book of poetry.

“Heather Cadsby has written a book alive with a quiet urgency, perfectly pitched and intelligently crafted. Her fluency lies in the melding of conceptual and linguistic subtleties that resonates with gravity, insight and a cadenced vitality.” – Don Domanski

“At times whimsical, at times wistful, always wakeful, in Cadsby’s intelligent and mature voice, Mimico Creek hums at the core of this extended aubade to this murmurous, anxious city.” – Dionne Brand

Promotional plans: • Launch in Toronto.

- Tour to Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, London, Barrie, Orillia, Huntsville, Sudbury, Timmins, Hamilton, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, Peterborough, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Fredericton, Halifax, St. John’s.
- National review copy mailing.
- Advertisements in selected literary journals.
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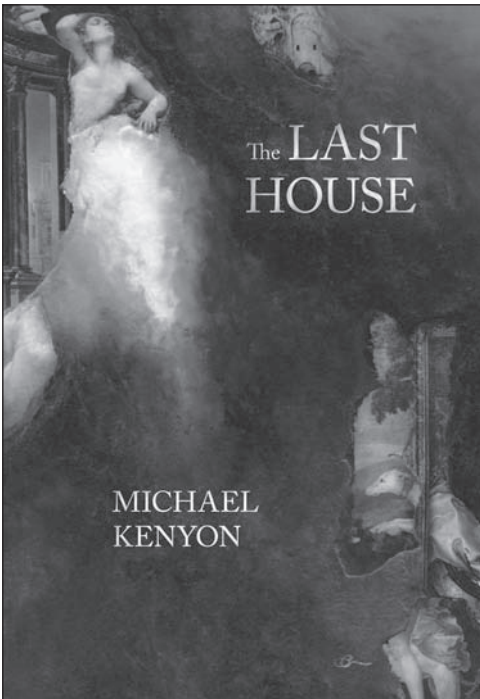
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978-1-894078-73-3  
Trade Paperback  
\$19.00  
October 2009

Of related interest:

*Household Hints for the End of Time*  
Ken Howe  
1-894078-16-0  
978-1-894078-16-0  
Paperback \$14.00

*Slovenly Love*  
Méira Cook  
1-894078-32-2  
978-1-894078-32-0  
Paperback \$15.00

# Fall 2009 Frontlist



## The Last House

MICHAEL KENYON

Poems of disturbing beauty, examining personal and collective loss.

This is Michael Kenyon's third full-length collection of poems. His poetry and fiction have always been alert to the underside, the angularity of the outcast, those forced by temperament or predilection or circumstance to the fringes of middle class life. Here, it is insight itself that pushes the speakers closer to the edge. The world of these poems is dark: Kenyon names and owns our clear cuts, our overpopulation, our fossil-fueled rush to oblivion, the violence embedded in sexuality. This is a book of expanded elegy, clear-eyed, unflinching amid the wreckage of its loves.

...It is useless to  
choose a direction: current must find us.

At last we swim away from each other  
to make the storm less jealous, old stars freeze  
the water, earthquakes calve an island, and  
another me adores another you  
inland.

– from "The Stars"

6 x 8.75 inches, 112 pages  
ISBN 1-894078-74-8  
978-1-894078-74-0  
Trade paperback  
\$19.00  
October, 2009

Fiercely elegiac, jaggedly sexual, *The Last House* stands on the brink of devastation—personal, ancestral, cultural. There is transcendence here, but no redemption: it is too late. But this is also a book about love – protean, violent, perduring—love as the key to reality, even as it mystifies us or tears us apart. These are poems of deep and disturbing vision, sustained by electrifying honesty.

Michael Kenyon was born in Sale, England, and has lived on the West Coast since 1967. His work has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, the SmithBooks/*Books in Canada* First Novel Award, the Baxter Hathaway Prize in fiction, *The Malahat Review* Novella Prize, *PRISM international's* fiction contest, the Journey Prize, the National, and the Western Magazine Awards. A new novel, *The Beautiful Children* (Thistledown Press) was published this spring. He divides his week between Pender Island and Vancouver, having in both places a private therapeutic practice.

By the same author:

*The Sutler*  
1-894078-41-1  
978-1-894078-41-2  
Paperback \$17.00

Of related interest:

*The Luskville Reductions*  
Monty Reid  
1-894078-65-9  
978-1-894078-65-8  
Paperback \$18.00

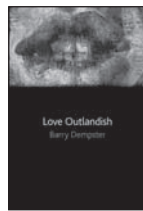
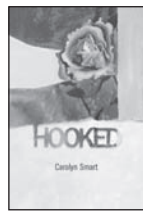
- Promotional plans:
- Possible group launch with other Brick Fall 2009 books in Victoria.
  - Readings in Vancouver, Vernon, Duncan, Lethbridge, Calgary, Montreal, Toronto, St. John's, and San Francisco.
  - National review copy mailing.
  - Advertisements in selected literary magazines.
  - Facebook and email campaign and Brick Book Club.
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## Hooked

CAROLYN SMART

*Hooked* is seven poems about seven famous or infamous women: Myra Hindley, Unity Mitford, Zelda Fitzgerald, Dora Carrington, Carson McCullers, Jane Bowles, and Elizabeth Smart. An elegant and sinister collection of dramatic monologues.

6 x 8.75, 120 pages  
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978-1-894078-69-6  
\$19.00  
Spring 2009 Poetry



## Love Outlandish

BARRY DEMPSTER

Dempster undoes all the clichés that have barnacled our love lives and, with the zest and courage typical of his work, explores their torrents and eddies afresh. A love affair chronicled (from obsession to heartbreak, foolhardiness to faith), this is a book to relish for its energy and cherish for its wisdom.

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## Botero's Beautiful Horses

JAN CONN

The poems of *Botero's Beautiful Horses* are charged with otherness, bright with the exhilaration and danger of transformation. Many are descriptions of surrealist canvases, astonishingly kinetic narratives. The book becomes a journey away from the familiar into other cultures, especially Latin American

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## Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems

RANDALL MAGGS

Winner of the 2008 Winterset Award. Finalist for the E.J. Pratt Poetry Award.

*Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems* follows the tragic trajectory of the life and work of Terry Sawchuk, dark driven genius of a goalie who survived twenty tough seasons in an era of inadequate upper-body equipment and no player representation.

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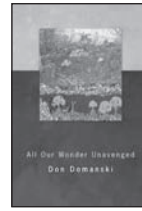
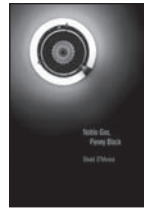
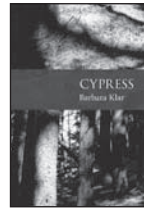
## Cypress

BARBARA KLAR

**Shortlisted for Book of the Year and Poetry (Saskatchewan Book Awards).**

A poetic vision quest and pilgrimage into the numinous presence of the Cypress Hills. Moving with grace between the perceptual moment and its visionary dimension, Klar opens liminal avenues of reconnection to place.

6 x 8.75, 104 pages  
1-894078-67-5  
978-1-894078-67-2  
\$18.00 2008 Poetry



## Breaker

SUE SINCLAIR

**Shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Award. Nominated for the Atlantic Poetry Prize.**

Sinclair possesses intense lyrical vision, steeped in wonder at the existence of the world, and a kind of grief at our inability to lose ourselves in it completely. Her perception is acutely focused, rigorous and self-aware, her gift for metaphor is astonishing.

6 x 8.75, 96 pages  
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## Noble Gas, Penny Black

DAVID O'MEARA

O'Meara's poems explore actual travel and its metaphorical dimensions. Being between places—in stations and airports and unfamiliar cities— creates a psychological, emotional space rife with reassessment, where the individual dwells simultaneously in the future and the past. O'Meara gives us lucid, aching, accurate detail and music at every turn.

6 x 8.75, 70 pages  
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## All Our Wonder Unavenged

DON DOMANSKI

**Winner of the 2007 Governor General's Award for Poetry, 2008 Atlantic Poetry Award, and 2008 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Award.**

A poet of osmosis explores the implicit relationship between matter and spirit, the interconnectedness of the universe, opening our perceptions of what it means to be alive in a sentient universe.

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