



Brick Books



Spring 2009

Publishing new and established voices in Canadian poetry since 1975

Hooked, seven poems

CAROLYN SMART

An elegant and sinister collection of dramatic monologues.

Hooked is a stunning new collection of seven poems about seven famous or infamous women: Myra Hindley, Unity Mitford, Zelda Fitzgerald, Dora Carrington, Carson McCullers, Jane Bowles, and Elizabeth Smart. Each of these women was hooked on, and her life contorted by, an addiction or obsession. Here we have seven variations on the insoluble conundrum of sexuality—each in a remarkably distinct, authentic voice.

xiii

I am conversant with my position:
middle-aged, untrained, the graduate
of half a dozen homes for the insane
I walk correctly through a world I do not understand

where has my life gone to
beside the smell of paints and
the texture of the canvas in my rough and awkward hands?
a show of paper dolls and stories starring anguish
that's my artistic life

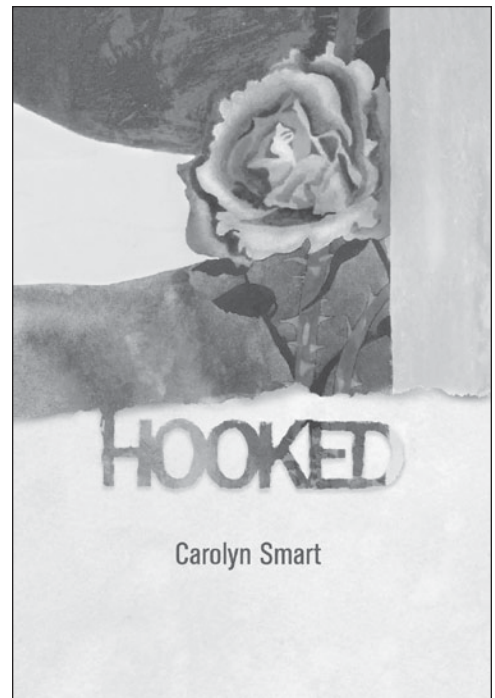
from "Rickety Rackety"
(Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald: July 24, 1900-March 10, 1948)

Carolyn Smart brilliantly recreates seven lives of great colour. These women, all born before the end of World War II, struggle to find—or escape—their roles in a society hostile to female intelligence and ambition. Here are the agonies of the half-lived life; talents and voices that are lost or go astray in seven different ways, at a time before the greater freedoms that Feminism brought to the Western World. Whether these women have artistic success or not they are, in these astonishing poems, devastatingly articulate about their difficult lives.

"...*Hooked* expresses the heart of darkness with an astonishing concision and acuity... [Smart] understands loneliness in all its forms, and writes with a clarity and compassion that is powerfully affecting. In [her], these women have found a deeply feeling and deeply attentive witness."—Anne Michaels

Carolyn Smart has written four previous volumes of poetry. An excerpt from her memoir *At the End of the Day* won first prize in the CBC Literary Contest (Personal Essay Category) in 1993. She teaches creative writing at Queen's University and lives north of Kingston.

- Promotional plans:
- Launch in Kingston.
 - Readings in Victoria, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax; 4-city tour in the northern US with Jan Conn in spring 2009
 - Panelist at Association of Writers & Writing Programs conference in Chicago in February 2009, speaking on current Canadian poetry
 - Advertisements in selected literary magazines
 - National review copy mailing
 - Facebook and e-mail campaign and Brick Book Club
 - Poem postcards



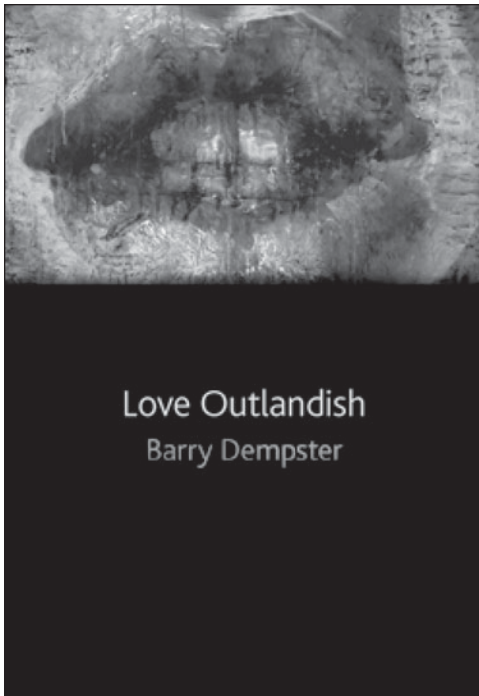
6 x 8.75 inches, 120 pages
1-894078-69-1 978-1-894078-69-6
Trade paperback
\$19.00
February 2009 Poetry

By the same author:

The Way to Come Home
0-919626-56-4
978-0-919626-56-0
Paperback \$15.00

Of related interest:

I, Nadja, and Other Poems
Susan Elmslie
1-894078-53-5
978-1-894078-53-5
Paperback \$18.00



Love Outlandish

BARRY DEMPSTER

A love affair chronicled—from obsession to heartbreak, foolhardiness to faith.

In *Love Outlandish*, Barry 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. As in his previous books, Dempster responds to D.H. Lawrence's plea that we should discover and articulate what the heart really wants rather than some idealized version of it. Thoughtful, passionate, full of humour and self-aware wit, *Love Outlandish* delivers, again and again, the shock of recognition that permits us to laugh at, and with, the very emotions it probes. This is a book to relish for its energy and cherish for its wisdom.

My favourite is the one where his love
keeps trouncing distance
even after she's gone, making
harmonies out of death rattles.
It's the crack in his heart
where the melody lingers, the hiss
of an old 45. How can I help
but sing along, hard, hard song,
unconditional illusion.

from "Hard Song"

6 x 8.75 inches, 120 pages
1-894078-70-5; 978-1-894078-70-2
Trade paperback
\$19.00
March 2009 Poetry

"...Barry Dempster trains his poetic gaze on the lonely marrow inside love, and blows it wide open."—Jeanette Lynes

"Talk about luscious, limber language! The wonderful poems of Barry Dempster in *Love Outlandish* extend the possibilities of 'love lives' themselves—what doesn't quite work out becomes, thanks to careful, original imagery and vibrant description, somehow as magnetic and translucent as what does..."—Naomi Shihab Nye

Barry Dempster is the author of two volumes of short stories, a novel, a children's book, and nine previous collections of poetry, the most recent of which, *The Burning Alphabet*, won the 2006 Canadian Authors' Association Jack Chalmers Award and was nominated for the 2005 Governor General's Award for Poetry. Born and raised in Toronto, he presently lives in Holland Landing, Ontario, where he runs a film series, two book clubs and a writing group.

By the same author:

Letters from a Long Illness with the World: the D.H. Lawrence Poems
0-919626-64-5
978-0-919626-64-5
Paperback \$14.00

Of related interest:

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

- Promotional plans:
- Launch in Toronto
 - Tour to Halifax, Montreal, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Vancouver, Victoria
 - Advertisements in selected literary magazines
 - National review copy mailing
 - Facebook and e-mail campaign and Brick Book Club
 - Poem postcards and bookmarks

Botero's Beautiful Horses

JAN CONN

"Every drawer in every chest overflows with illogic and passion."

"Do we want love / each and every day of our lives?" Jan Conn asks in a poem called "Michoacán." "You bet your ass," she answers. 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 composed by looking hard at unusual pictures, the artists' writings and their circumstances—and letting them speak for themselves. The book becomes a journey away from the familiar into other cultures, especially Latin American. Poem after poem gathers a sense of inner as well as outward journey away from a "perilous childhood" into a wide world rich and strange with a recurrent underworld motif of darkness, blackness. But what a black! Rich and various, life as if viewed in the "obsidian mirrors the Aztecs fashioned from the dark."

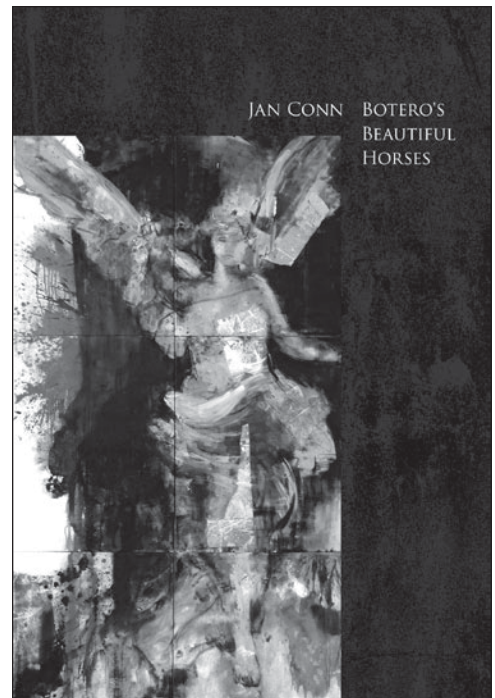
Colours the Aztecs invented:
eagle-devouring-snake black
expansionist black
black of the flowery wars
dried-blood black.

They loved the night creatures: owls, scorpions,
bats, the Queen of Spiders.
from "People of the Left-Sided Hummingbird"

"Jan Conn is a Dali with a scalpel of words, with colourwheels for eyes. To read her is to feel alive, sometimes flayed, but always securely held in a dream overwhelmingly rich with exotic flora and fauna. She is conducting an operation of intelligence and observation, a taxonomy of the senses cooked over flames of Art and wholly embracing the cultures of the Americas."—Marilyn Bowering

Jan Conn was brought up in Asbestos, Quebec. She now lives in Great Barrington, Massachusetts and works as a professor of Biomedical Sciences whose research focuses on mosquitoes, their evolution and ecology. She is the author of six previous books of poetry.

- Promotional plans:
- Launch in Albany, NY, at Amherst Books
 - Readings in Fredericton, Halifax, St. John's, Montreal, Ottawa, St. Catharines, Kingston, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria; 4-city tour in the northern US with Carolyn Smart in spring 2009
 - National review copy mailing
 - Advertisements in selected literary magazines
 - Facebook and e-mail campaign and Brick Book Club
 - Poem postcards and bookmarks



6 x 8.75 inches, 144 pages
1-894078-71-3; 978-1-894078-71-9
Trade Paperback
\$19.00
April 2009 Poetry

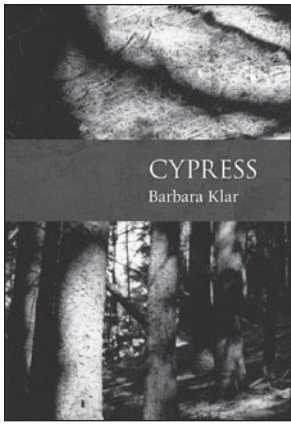
By the same author

Jaguar Rain: the Margaret Mee Poems
1-894078-48-9
978-1-894078-48-1
Paperback \$18.00

Of related interest:

Two Hemispheres
Nadine McInnis
1-894078-59-4
978-1-894078-59-7
Paperback \$18.00

2008 Backlist



Cypress

BARBARA KLAR

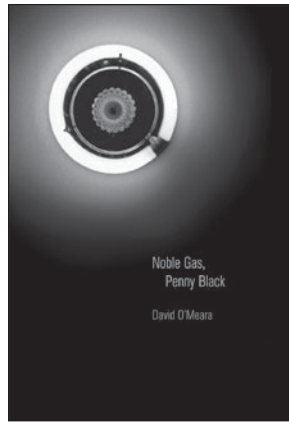
Shortlisted for Book of the Year and Poetry (Saskatchewan Book Awards).

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. Intensely moving, courageous in their utter dedication, the poems in *Cypress* carry us to a unique landscape that is also a place of transformation.

“Klar shares Heaney’s rich evocation of the unique fingerprint of place that arises from interactions of climate, flora, fauna, and landscape.”—*Quill & Quire*

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



Noble Gas, Penny Black

DAVID O'MEARA

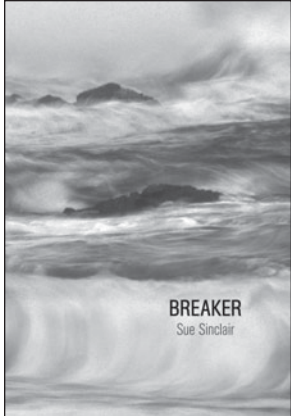
O'Meara's poems explore actual travel and its metaphorical dimensions. Being between places—in stations and airports and unfamiliar cities—creates a psychological, emotional space rife with reassessment, where the individual dwells simultaneously in the future and the past. O'Meara gives us lucid, accurate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

Here are poems entangled enough with the world to make us ache.

“[There are] lines from *Noble Gas, Penny Black*, where the syllables are, let me incautiously say, near-perfect.”—Don Coles

“...packs a wallop in both technique and emotional commitment.”—*Winnipeg Free Press*

6 x 8.75 inches, 70 pages
1-894078-68-3, 978-1-894078-68-9, \$18.00
Fall 2008 Poetry



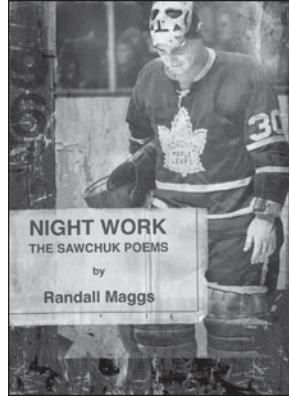
Breaker

SUE SINCLAIR

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 and rigorous, she is acutely self-aware, her gift for metaphor is astonishing. The quintessence of lyric poetry.

“...All objects here exercise the power of a profound affective gravity; cities, islands, gardens and the savouring mind itself pull and accommodate the one who looks hard. Sinclair's poems shape us to be just this sort of fierce viewer. They have a moving, extraordinary facility to discern, taste, the sweet depths of things.”—Tim Lilburn

6 x 8.75 inches, 96 pages
1-894078-66-7, 978-1-894078-66-5, \$18.00
Fall 2008 Poetry



Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems

RANDALL MAGGS

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.

“Gary Bettman need look no further if the NHL is in the market for its own poet laureate—a fascinating, richly evocative portrait...”—*Toronto Star*

“*Night Work* is, in fact, an exquisite biographical novel, in the tradition of Michael Ondaatje's *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid*.”—*Globe and Mail*

6 x 8.75 inches, 190 pages
12 black and white photographs
Bibliography
1-894078-62-4, 978-1-894078-62-7, \$20.00
Spring 2008 Poetry

Backlist

All Our Wonder Unavenged

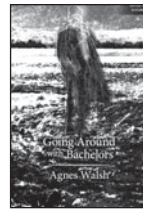
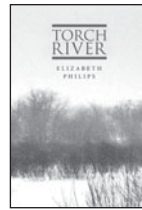
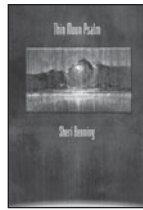
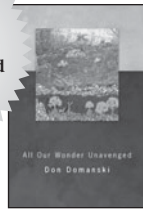
BY DON DOMANSKI

Winner of the 2007 Governor General's Award for Poetry. 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. Living in the moment here is synonymous with being the moment.

6 x 8.75, 128 pages
1-894078-58-6
978-1-894078-58-6
\$18.00
2007 Poetry

Winner of the 2007 Governor General's Award for Poetry



Thin Moon Psalm

BY SHERI BENNING

Winner of the Saskatoon Book Award and the Anne Szumigalski Poetry Award (Saskatchewan Book Awards).

Poems about family, lovers, and the prairie landscape itself, of remembrance and deep grieving, recalling the rigours and joys of life on a prairie farm. Reminiscent of Jane Hirshfield and Jan Zwicky.

6 x 8.75, 88 pages
1-894078-60-8
978-1-894078-60-3
\$18.00 2007 Poetry

Torch River

BY ELIZABETH PHILIPS

Shortlisted for Poetry and Saskatoon categories (Saskatchewan Book Awards).

Philips takes us down into the swirling core of planetary energies, the central mystery of life itself. Sexual love, the wilderness, the births and deaths that connect them, the interior wilderness of desire and the sensual love of wild things, are her themes and subjects.

6 x 8.75, 120 pages
1-894078-57-8; 978-1-894078-57-3
\$18.00 2007 Poetry

Going Around with Bachelors

BY AGNES WALSH

Shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Award.

Walsh's distinctive subject matter is the past in the present, Ireland and Portugal in Newfoundland, weather internal and external, the Cape Shore. The spirit of the departed – source, origin, heritage, history – is the essence of this book, rich with the tang of Newfoundland speech.

Bonus CD.

6 x 8.75, 72 pages, CD
1-894078-56-X;
978-1-894078-56-6
\$21.00 2007 Poetry

Books in Print

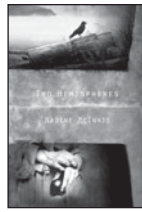
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Two Hemispheres

BY NADINE MCINNIS

Shortlisted for the Pat Lowther, Lampman-Scott, Acorn-Plantos, and ReLit Awards. Imagining the lives of nineteenth-century women asylum patients through contemplating photographs of patients in the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, Nadine McInnis charts her own descent into and recovery from depression, in poems of density and candour. Includes black and white photographs.

6 x 8.75, 96 pages
1-894078-59-4
978-1-894078-59-7
\$18.00 2007 Poetry



Spirit Engine

BY JOHN DONLAN

Donlan's lyric poems reveal the wilderness to us moment by moment, exploring the nexus between human consciousness and the natural world. Lifted by imagery, rhythms, and insights, readers will experience these poems as pure pleasure. Here beauty is the engine that enspirits the mind, freeing us from the illusion we've left nature behind.

6 x 8.75, 76 pages
1-894078-63-2; 978-1-894078-63-4
\$18.00 2008 Poetry

Daughters of Men

BY BRENDA LEIFSO

A stunning debut collection that explores the uncertainty of memory, the legacy of place, the powerful dynamics of sexuality and secrecy, and the violence inherent in family relations. Vivid and accessible, these poems reveal the mythic proportions of a seemingly simple, rural childhood and the passions that course through every life.

6 x 8.75, 112 pages
1-894078-64-0; 978-1-894078-64-1
\$18.00 2008 Poetry

The Luskville Reductions

BY MONTY REID

A long poem built of fragments recording a year in the life of a small Quebec town and the marriage that disintegrates there. A book about loss and about the imbalance that for a time makes everything lucid. The visible goes beyond mere facts in these poems, transformed into the deeply seen – and therefore sacred.

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