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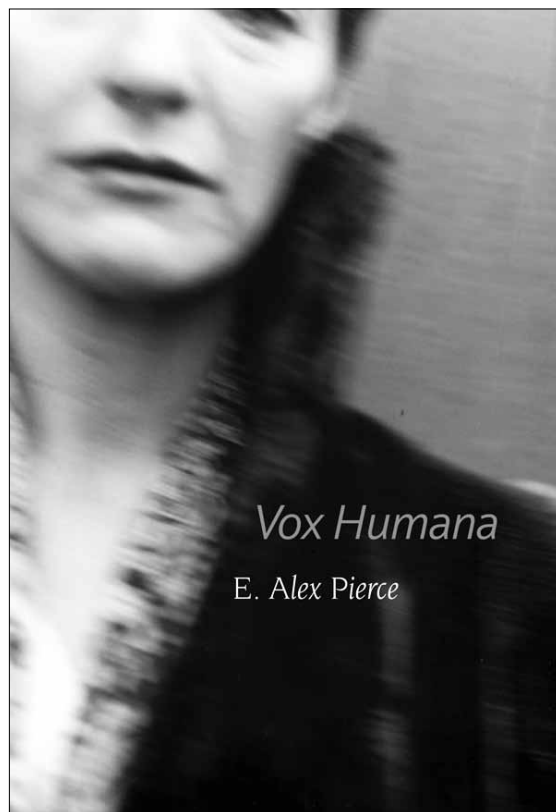
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FALL 2011



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TRADE PAPERBACK / POETRY

*Poems
of great
passion and
tenderness,
as close to
rapture as a
writer can
get and still
hold on.*

VOX HUMANA

E. Alex Pierce

E. Alex Pierce's voice can be heard echoing down the long corridors of memory and myth. It's not that these poems live in the past; instead, they manage to bring it back to life with uncanny sensual details and an urgency that makes you realize some fires never really go out. The book's scope is wide: beautifully crafted family reminiscences; Beethoven and Bach; Raphael and Goltzius; Shakespeare; the Greek Myths and the fate of the Romanovs. *Vox Humana* is all lilt and discipline in its courtliness, its surrender to the theatre of the moment at its most alive.

...Pump organ, stops labelled
vox, vox, vox – tremolo, bellows filling air.

Take this creature into your throat pipe. Gristle,
heft, and hide. Rasp, slide the whistle – the alder
cuts its throat to speak its sound.

- from "Vox animalia"

E. Alex Pierce lives in East Sable River, Nova Scotia where she is developing a centre for writers and artists. Her work has been anthologized in *Words Out There: Women Writers in Atlantic Canada* (Roseway), *Best Canadian Poetry 2008* (Tightrope), and in *Undercurrents: New Voices in Canadian Poetry* (Cormorant).

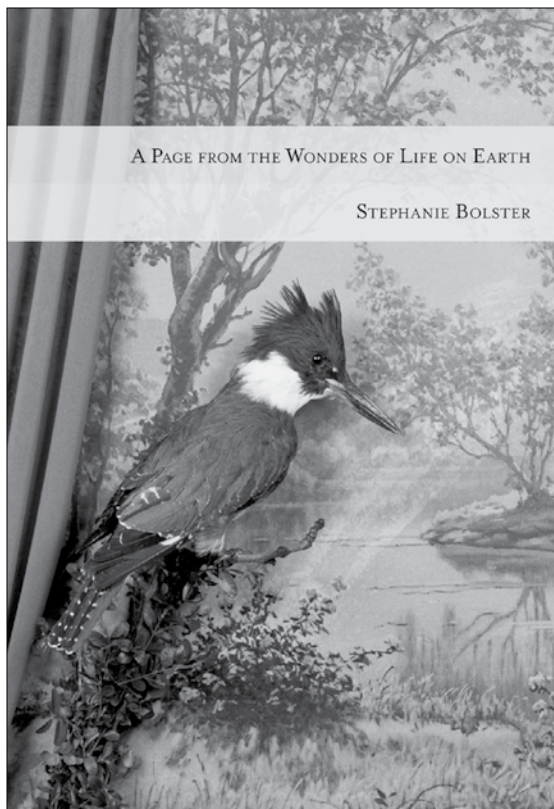
"...the wonderful thing about this collection is its lightness and optimism – though its subject matter is often love and loss, it can be retrospective without being nostalgic, and elegiac without overbearing solemnity. Good poetry is always redemptive, and one leaves this collection refreshed, exhilarated, and renewed."

- John Glenday

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- launches in Toronto and Sable River, NS
- readings in Ottawa, Cape Breton, Halifax, Moncton (Frye Festival), Shelburne (Shelburne Festival), St. John's, Victoria, Salt Spring Island, and Vancouver
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SEPTEMBER

*An
ambivalent
zoo-tour,
an open-eyed
meander
through a
landscape of
made and
contained
things.*

A PAGE FROM THE WONDERS OF LIFE ON EARTH

Stephanie Bolster

A Page from The Wonders of Life on Earth is a book with a coherent vision of nature—constructed or framed, both in the present and in the recent past—through zoos, aviaries, formal gardens, menageries, and books like the Time Life one named in the title. Informed by the author's grand tour of these zoos and gardens, these poems provide a strong lens for considering the many paradoxes of inter-species relations; they open up the possibility of honest, unsentimental elegy.

The book is also a model of what might be called investigative poetry, taking the poet's combination of perceptual acuity, craft, music and sensibility into these richly troubled places (prisons of, monuments to, museums for the lost natural world) where "arcades sell postcards of old photographs of the arcades," and where questions of what it means to be human, to be animal, to be other and to be art are tangibly in the air. This is Bolster's best work.

Stephanie Bolster's first book, *White Stone: The Alice Poems*, won the Governor General's and the Gerald Lampert Awards in 1998. She has published two other collections, *Two Bowls of Milk*, which won the Archibald Lampman Award, and *Pavilion*. Raised in Burnaby, B.C., she now teaches at Concordia University and lives in Pointe-Claire, Québec.

"Bolster's work demonstrates a surety of vision supported by an insider's eye for the telling aberrant detail everywhere matched by her impeccable ear . . ."

- Judith Fitzgerald, The Globe and Mail

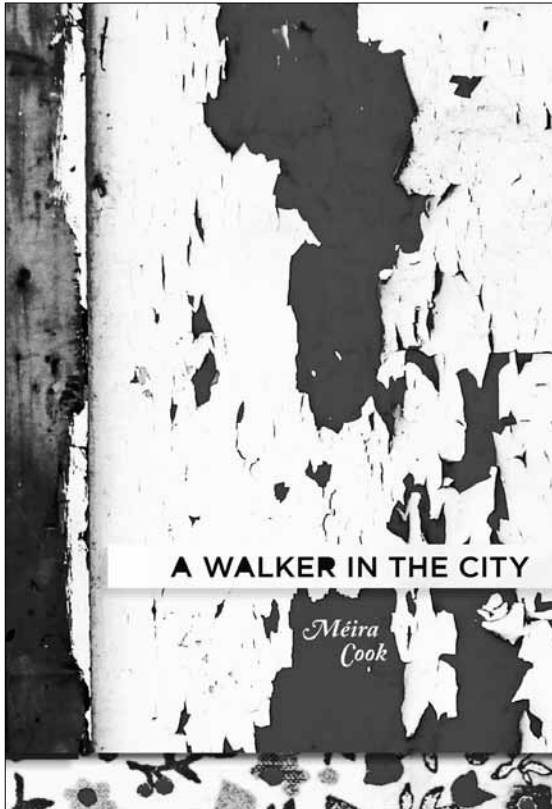
"What a startling voice she has . . ." - Patrick Lane, The Vancouver Sun

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

- launch in Montreal
- readings in Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, Victoria, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Halifax, Fredericton
- national review copy mailing & advertisements in selected literary magazines

A WALKER IN THE CITY

Méira Cook



*A fascinating,
 ambling,
 loitering
 mystery
 story
 in verse,
 a whoizzit
 rather than a
 whodunit.*

In this innovative and arresting narrative poem, Méira Cook’s walker, a young woman, is a character being written by an “old city poet,” who is in turn being written by another poet, for whom the young woman, “Ms. Em Cook,” has been an amanuensis. Always witty and often hilarious, feather-light in touch, the book is an entertaining exploration of serious issues: youth and age; life, death and rebirth; the (dis)connection of language and reality; tradition and the now. It is an assemblage of seven nesting sections, each of them a sort of chapbook speaking to each of the others and rounding out a long poem of great freshness. *A Walker in the City* is one of a kind, one of the most original books Brick has ever published.

Her lover stirs and reaches for her
 and listen — it’s as if she cracks into a hundred pieces
 with rage and every jagged shard flings itself at his neck.
 Instead she turns over on her back and practices her thought balloons:
*if I don’t get there in time start without me
 and none for me thanks but please help yourself.*

A Walker in the City is Méira Cook’s third book of poetry with Brick Books. The opening poem of this collection won first place in the 2006 CBC Literary Awards, and poems in this series were selected as part of the Poetry in Motion initiative. She lives, writes, and walks in Winnipeg.

“...full of raucous and rhythmic lines voiced with bardic wisdom and choreographed with flash-dance philosophical wit. This is encore poetry, provocative and intensely entertaining.” - Fred Wah

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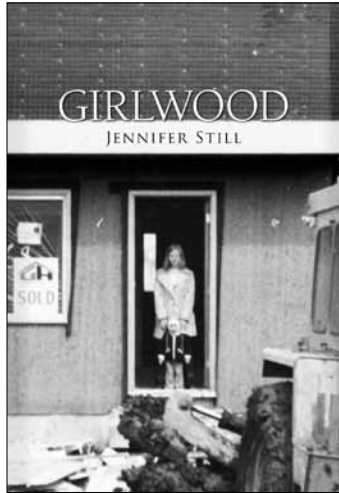
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OCTOBER

PROMOTIONAL PLANS

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- national review copy mailing & advertisements in selected literary magazines



GIRLWOOD

Jennifer Still

In *Girlwood*, Jennifer Still's poems come of age. But the poems don't leave the girl behind, they bring her along: as sylph, as raconteur, as witness, as pure, unstoppable bravado. From the tangled pathways between mother and daughter arise both songs of liberation and of confinement, both cries of devotion and congested laments.

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Sue Goyette

Sue Goyette's *outskirts* is a tour de force. Its originality lies in Goyette's refusal of despair, her conviction that the connections among people, their conversation, curiosity, empathy and awe, can help us see a way forward; a way to walk the darkness rather than hide from it. This book will name you, and frighten you; it will make you laugh, and arm you for what is to come.

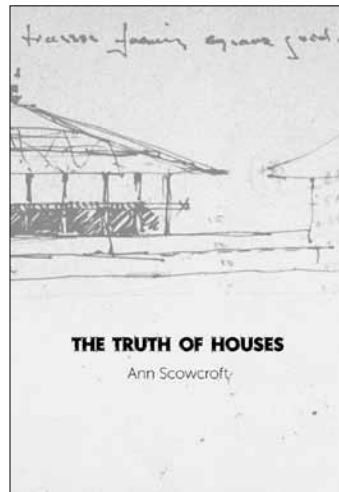
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THE TRUTH OF HOUSES

Ann Scowcroft

At once wise and aching at a loss, *The Truth of Houses* is an elegant and honest debut collection. These poems speak of a familiar inner struggle for insight, for equanimity; we eavesdrop on the uncovering of a personal vernacular that might allow the present to be better lived, allow us to re-enter life anew.

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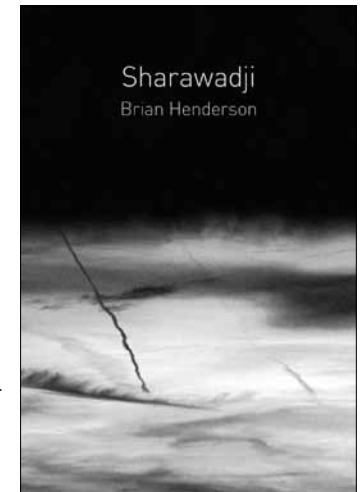


SHARAWADJI

Brian Henderson

Sharawadji brilliantly makes us aware of language as an instrument of discovery. Each of the secret languages of the mind's worlds is unearthed and translated with a conjurer's intensity. This includes not only such worlds as those created by the surreal paintings of Jacek Yerka, but also the intense, re-humanizing experience of loss and grief.

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Julia McCarthy

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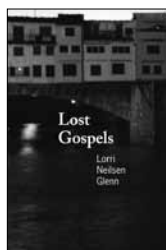
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Eve Joseph

“These are beautiful poems: questing and mysterious, hopeful and fierce. Joseph’s craft and attention, her choice of the perfect word, give a kind of holiness to the song of everyday life...”
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Antony Di Nardo

These astute, generous poems give us a glimpse of modern Beirut—in all its ravaged and incongruent beauty—from the perspective of a Westerner who lives and works there.

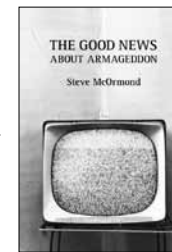
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Steve McOrmond

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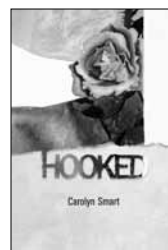
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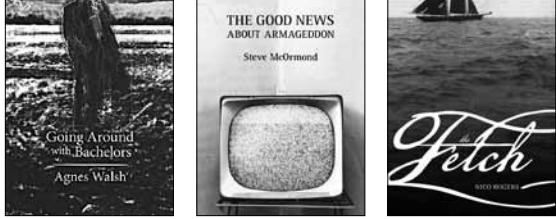


HOOKED: SEVEN POEMS
Carolyn Smart

Seven poems about 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.

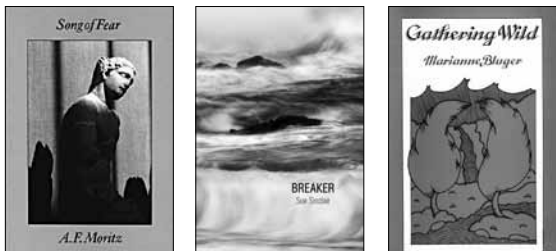
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TO CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF POETRY PUBLISHING

Brick Books has set out to create the largest publisher-focused poetry performance archive in Canada and abroad. Begun in June 2010, the Brick Books podcast channel currently boasts over 400 recordings, with many more to come.



"I'm delighted that we are now able to hear Canadian poets online. A great resource for writers, teachers, and all lovers of fine poetry. Brick Books is marking 35 years of publishing inspiring poetry by inspiring readers in a new format. I'm thrilled to be part of this venture."

— *Lorri Neilsen Glenn* (*Combustion*; *Lost Gospels*; and Halifax's Poet Laureate 2005-2009)

"One of the great pleasures of poetry is how it sounds. It's one thing to encounter a poem on the page and another to hear it read aloud. Listening to a poem performed in the poet's own voice can illuminate different possibilities for meaning, reveal elements of craft and provoke different interpretations. With its poetry podcasts, Brick Books has created a living archive of the spoken word that should intrigue and delight anyone who is interested in poetry."

— *Steve McOrmond* (*The Good News About Armageddon*)

"I like the fact that Brick's poetry podcast archive gives a home, paradoxically, on the non-local, even anti-local surface of the web, to a community of poetry. It makes a constellation out of the star-in-the-night quality of the brief eternal passion of the poem. A new and another form of breathing your poem into the vastness and discovering its almost nothingness is almost everything."

— *A. F. Moritz* (*Mahoning*; *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*; *Song of Fear*; and winner of the 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize)

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