



Poetry

new titles for 2016



Penguin
Random House
Canada

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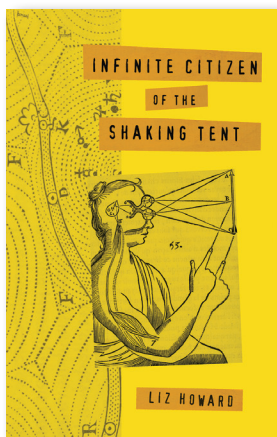


LORNA CROZIER
The Wrong Cat



The poems in *The Wrong Cat* are vintage Crozier: sly, sexy, irreverent, and sad, and populated by fully realized characters whose stories take place in a small lyrical space. We learn about a mother's last breath, the first dog in heaven, a man's fear that his wife no longer loves him, and the ways in which animals size up the humans around them and find them wanting. With Crozier's celebrated mix of vibrant imagery, piercing observations, and deeply felt human emotions, these poems provide an affirmation in the midst of the fluid, often challenging nature of experience.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 96 PP., 9780771023910, \$18.95

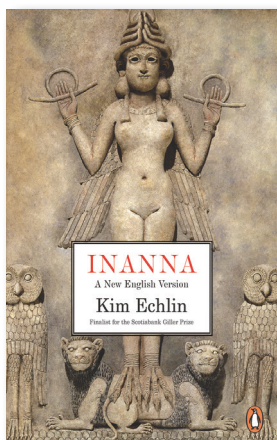


LIZ HOWARD
Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent



In Liz Howard's wild, scintillating debut, the mechanisms we use to make sense of our worlds – even our direct intimate experiences of it – come under constant scrutiny and a pressure that feels like love. What Howard can accomplish with language strikes us as electric, a kind of alchemy of perception and catastrophe, fidelity and apocalypse. The waters of Northern Ontario shield country are the toxic origin and an image of potential. A subject, a woman, a consumer, a polluter; an erotic force, a confused brilliance, a very necessary form of urgency – all are loosely tethered together and made somehow to resonate with our own devotions and fears.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 112 PP., 9780771038365, \$18.95

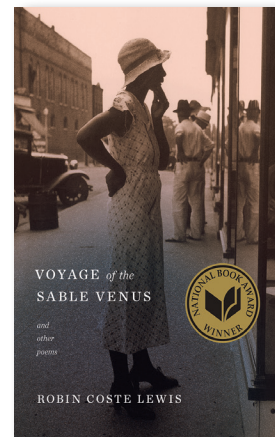


KIM ECHLIN
Inanna



Lost for millennia, Inanna's stories were buried and forgotten, unearthed only recently, around the turn of the 19th century. Their translation has been a collaboration by scholars from disparate parts of the globe, as fragments of stone tablets were pieced together and the symbols on them recorded, transliterated, and interpreted. Now a picture of this extraordinary figure has slowly begun to emerge: Inanna the creator, Inanna the destroyer; the leader, the warrior, the lover, the friend. Inanna was a commanding symbol of justice and honour, and her stories have much to teach about love, power, independence, and compassion. Now, these stories are brought to life by Canadian author Kim Echlin, who brings her trademark passion and poet's sensibility to the translation of the Inanna myth.

Penguin Canada, TR, 272 PP., 9780143194583, \$20.00

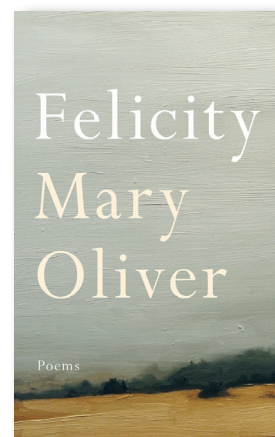


ROBIN COSTE LEWIS
Voyage of the Sable Venus

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

Robin Coste Lewis's electrifying collection is a triptych that begins and ends with lyric poems considering the roles desire and race play in the construction of the self. The central panel is the title poem, "Voyage of the Sable Venus," a riveting narrative made up entirely of titles of artworks from ancient times to the present – titles that feature or comment on the black female figure in Western art. Bracketed by Lewis's autobiographical poems, "Voyage" is a tender and shocking study of the fragmentary mysteries of stereotype, as it juxtaposes our names for things with what we actually see and know. Offering a new understanding of biography and the self, this collection questions just where, historically, do ideas about the black female figure truly begin. Lewis's book is a thrilling aesthetic anthem to the complexity of race.

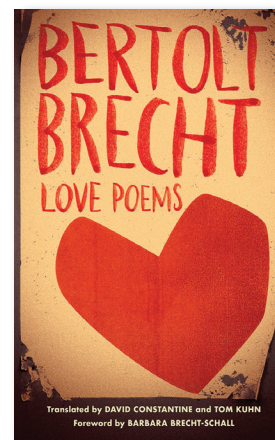
Knopf, HC, 160 PP., 9781101875438, \$34.00



MARY OLIVER
Felicity

Mary Oliver, winner of the Pulitzer Prize, celebrates love in her new collection of poems. Our most delicate chronicler of physical landscape, Oliver has described her work as loving the world. With *Felicity* she examines what it means to love another person. She opens our eyes again to the territory within our own hearts; to the wild and to the quiet. In these poems, she describes – with joy – the strangeness and wonder of human connection.

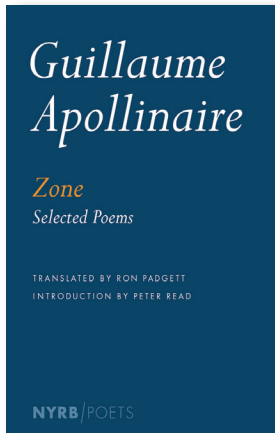
Penguin Press, HC, 96 PP., 9781594206764, \$32.49



BERTOLT BRECHT
Love Poems

Bertolt Brecht is widely considered the greatest German playwright of the twentieth century, and to this day remains best known as a dramatist. However, Brecht was also a prolific poet, producing over 2,000 poems during his lifetime. Now, the English-speaking world can access part of his stunning body of work in *Love Poems*, the first volume in a massive undertaking by award-winning translators David Constantine and Tom Kuhn to translate Brecht's poetic legacy into English. *Love Poems* collects his most intimate and romantic poems, many of which were banned in Germany in the 1950s for their explicit eroticism. Here, we see Brecht's deeply personal love poems which show him as lover and love poet, engaged in a bitter struggle to keep faith, hope, and love alive during desperate times.

Liveright, TR, 9781631491115, \$20.95

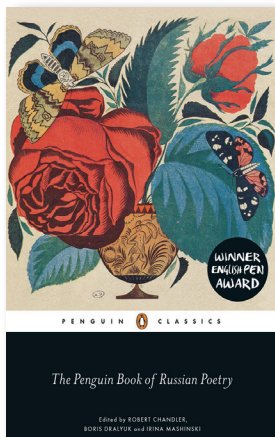


GUILLAUME APOLLINAIRE

Zone

Zone is the fruit of poet-translator Ron Padgett's fifty-year engagement with the work of France's greatest modern poet. This bilingual edition of Apollinaire's poetry represents the full range of his achievement from traditional lyric verse to the pathbreaking visual poems he called calligrams, from often-anthologized classics to hitherto untranslated gems, from poems of cosmic breadth to a poem about his shoes. Including an introduction by the distinguished scholar Peter Read, helpful endnotes, a preface, and an annotated bibliography by Padgett, this new edition of Apollinaire stands out not only for its compact and judicious selection of the essential poems but also as the work of an important American poet.

NYRB Poets, TR, 288 PP., 9781590179246, \$21.00

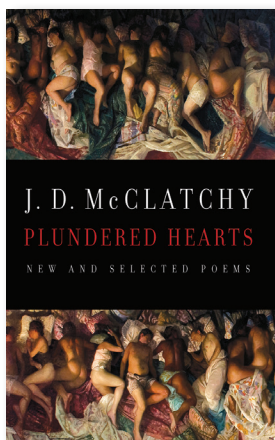


THE PENGUIN BOOK OF RUSSIAN POETRY EDITED BY:

ROBERT CHANDLER, BORIS DRALYUK & IRINA MASHINSKI

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, poetry's pre-eminence in Russia was unchallenged, with Pushkin and his contemporaries ushering in the 'Golden Age' of Russian literature. In the early twentieth century, poetry again became dominant over prose in the 'Silver Age', when belief in reason and progress yielded once more to a more magical view of the world. During the Soviet era, poetry became a dangerous, subversive activity; nevertheless, poets continued to defy the censors. This anthology traces Russian poetry from its Golden Age to the modern era, including work by several great poets in captivating modern translations by Robert Chandler and others. The volume also includes a general introduction, chronology and individual introductions to each poet.

Penguin Classics, TR, 480 PP., 9780141198309, \$26.00

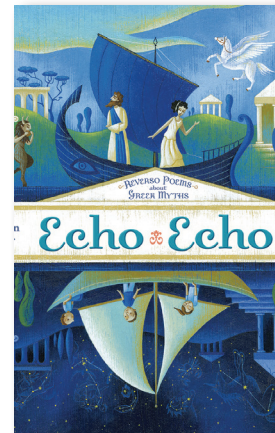


J. D. McCLATCHY

Plundered Hearts

Here at last is a definitive selection of elegant work by a poet who has been at the forefront of American poetry for more than three decades. With his first several books, J. D. McClatchy established himself as a poet of urbanity, intellect, and prismatic emotion. Now, opening with exquisite new poems, this selection is a glorious full tour of McClatchy's career. It includes excerpts from the powerful book-length sequence *Ten Commandments* (1998) and his more recent works *Hazmat* (2002) and *Mercury Dressing* (2009) – books that explored the body's melodrama, as well as the heart's treacheries, grievances, and boundless capacities. All of his poems present a sumptuous weave of impassioned thought and clear-sighted feeling.

Knopf, TR, 288 PP., 9780804168755, \$25.95

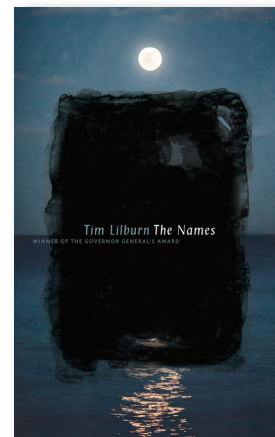


MARILYN SINGER

Echo Echo

What happens when you hold up a mirror to poems about Greek myths? You get a brand-new perspective on the classics! And that is just what happens in *Echo Echo*, the newest collection of reverso poems from Marilyn Singer. Read one way, each poem tells the story of a familiar myth; but when read in reverse, the poems reveal a new point of view. Readers will delight in uncovering the dual points of view in well-known legends, including the stories of Pandora's box, King Midas and his golden touch, and Echo and Narcissus among others. These cunning verses combine with beautiful illustrations to create a collection of fourteen reverso poems to treasure.

Dial Books, HC, 32 PP., 9780803739925, \$21.99



TIM LILBURN

The Names

WINNER OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD

The Names is personal and familial archeology, an extemporal dig giving spectres back to their bodies. With its lines sped up and dazzlingly associative, Tim Lilburn's cocktail of obsessions – confession, ontology, mystical theology, humour and extreme, fleet, apt weirdness – marches through on full display. He pulls in an even wilder cast of characters than his previous collections managed: Jan Ruusbroec and Marguerite Porete brush past aunts, uncles, and unidentified creatures steering the boats of language past fog-draped trees. In Lilburn's latest collection, we are immersed in a realism of remarkable proportions, as though haunted memory comprised both texture and text, and combined formed the elemental fibres of a perilous present.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 80 PP., 9780771048036, \$18.95

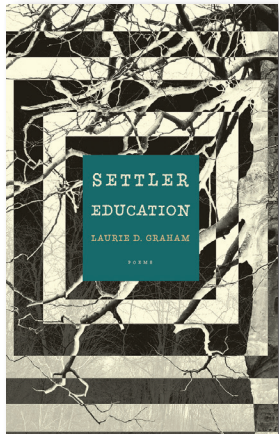


JACOB McARTHUR MOONEY

Don't Be Interesting

Don't Be Interesting is a collection that grapples with The Future – as public morality-keeper and private reckoner. The book explores the lines dividing the present from both the future and the past. Its channels include all the breadth of mass experience, from film and sport to war, history, technology, and biography. In tones that range from empathetic to caustic, *Don't Be Interesting* calls out to idols and villains, from athletes to war criminals. Philosophically, its chief worry is that our present historical period has caught up to us, aided by our new and eager history recalling media. In our present time, we find ourselves in a post-modern reporting chamber: simultaneously living the world and writing it down. What becomes of the future once the past and present have merged into one?

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 96 PP., 9780771057243, \$18.95



LAURIE D. GRAHAM

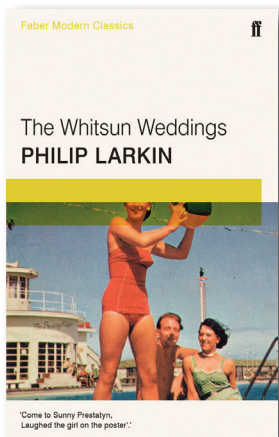
Settler Education



"A tone-perfect elegiac meditation on the impossibility of engaging with painful history and the necessity of doing so."
-Margaret Atwood

In the stunning poems of *Settler Education*, Laurie D. Graham vividly explores the Plains Cree uprising at Frog Lake – the death of nine settlers, the hanging of six Cree warriors, the imprisonment of Big Bear, and the opening of the Prairies to unfettered settlement. In ways possible only with such an honest act of imagination, and with language at once terse and capacious, *Settler Education* reckons with how these pasts repeat and reconstitute themselves in the present.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 128 PP., 9780771036873, \$18.95



PHILIP LARKIN

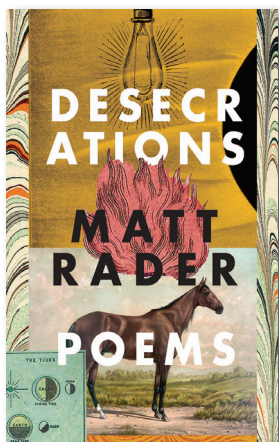
The Whitsun Weddings

"Larkin, with his (in the best sense) provincial eye, and his unparalleled ear, is the supreme writer of post-war England." -Telegraph

"Larkin's originality is palpable. Who else uses an essentially conversational idiom to achieve such a variety of emotional effects? Who else takes us, and takes us so often, from sunlit levity to mellifluous gloom?" -Martin Amis

The most cherished of poets, Philip Larkin is a writer with an unrivaled ability to touch readers with his evocations of English life. *The Whitsun Weddings*, his first volume with Faber and Faber, was published in 1964.

Faber & Faber, TR, 64 PP., 9780571326297, \$18.99



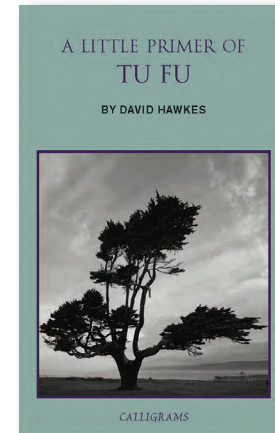
MATT RADER

Desecrations



If pattern is information, and verse the mind's conversation with Time, Matt Rader's *Desecrations* animates a theatre of silence we recognize as mystery. Building on an astonishing body of work, in lines so fluid and uncannily resonant as to evoke a dream world, Rader insists that intimate moments bear the cargo of both past and future, antiquity and grim projection, ancestry and unborn selves, resulting in poems of kaleidoscopic beauty and strangeness. These singular, musical evocations eschew argument in favour of a welcoming, arms-wide abandon, and an ethics of porousness and connection. *Desecrations* reveals the imagination as a worthy location of real experience. These poems are a new way to orbit around a locus of damage, a new fabric of signs and singing that we can't help but realize we'd been yearning for all along.

McClelland & Stewart, TR, 96 PP., 9780771072482, \$18.95



DAVID HAWKES

A Little Primer of Tu Fu

The deepest and most varied of the Tang dynasty poets, Tu Fu is the first complete poetic sensibility in Chinese literature, frequently merging the public and the private spheres in the same poem. Although Tu Fu has been translated often, and often brilliantly, David Hawkes's classic study, first published in 1967, is the only book that demonstrates in depth how his poems were written. Hawkes presents thirty-five poems in the original Chinese, with a pinyin transliteration, a character-by-character translation, and a commentary on the subject, the form, the historical background, and the individual lines. There is no other book quite like it for any language: a nuts-and-bolts account of how Chinese poems in general, and specifically the poems of one of the world's greatest poets, are constructed.

New York Review Books, TR, 290 PP., 9789629966591, \$21.95

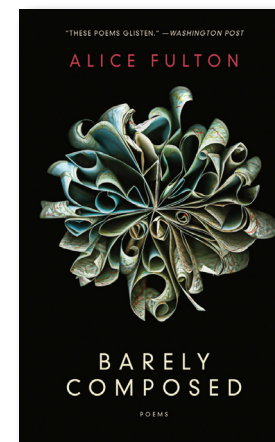


CATE MARVIN

Oracle

The speakers of *Oracle* occupy the outer-borough cityscape of New York's Staten Island, where they move through worlds glittering with refuse and peopled by ghosts – of a dead lover, of a friend lost to suicide, of a dog with glistening eyes. Marvin's haunting, passionate poems explore themes of loss, of the vulnerability of womanhood in a world hostile to it, and of the fraught, strangely compelling landscape of adolescence.

WW Norton, TR, 96 PP., 9780393353136, \$21.95



ALICE FULTON

Barely Composed

Alice Fulton reimagines the great lyric subjects – time, death, love – and imbues them with fresh urgency and depth. *Barely Composed* unveils the emotional devastations that follow trauma or grief – extreme states that threaten psyche and language with disintegration. With rare originality, the poems illuminate the deepest suffering and its aftermath of hyper-vigilance and numbness, the "formal feeling" described by Emily Dickinson. Shimmering with the "good strangeness of poetry," *Barely Composed* bears witness to love's complexities and the fragility of existence. In the midst of cruelty, a world in which "the pound is by the petting zoo," Fulton's poems embrace the inextinguishable search for goodness, compassion, and "the principles of tranquility."

WW Norton, TR, 112 PP., 9780393352832, \$21.95

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