

A man with long dreadlocks, wearing a bright red jacket, is captured in a moment of performance. He is holding a microphone with his right hand and gesturing with his left. His mouth is open as if he is singing or speaking passionately. The background is dark with some white text visible, including the letters 'E' and 'B'.

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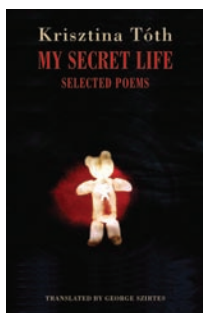
*Five Books*  
*My Native Land A4*  
*The Sun of Hereafter • Ebb of the Senses*



**FEBRUARY 20**  
**ANA BLANDIANA**  
**The Shadow of Words**  
tr. Paul Scott Derrick  
& Viorica Patea

Ana Blandiana is one of Romania's foremost poets, a leading dissident before the fall of Communism, and now one of her country's strongest candidates for the Nobel Prize. *The Shadow of Words* covers Blandiana's early collections published from 1964 to 1981 during the brief period of political thaw of Romania's communist regime. In these early poems, Blandiana's voice articulates a pure and vibrant spiritual language of unmistakable ethical clarity, calling for moral regeneration in the face of indifference.

This collection follows *My Native Land A4* (2014), *The Sun of Hereafter • Ebb of the Senses* (2017) and *Five Books* (2021), completing Bloodaxe's presentation of Blandiana's collected poems to date in English translation.



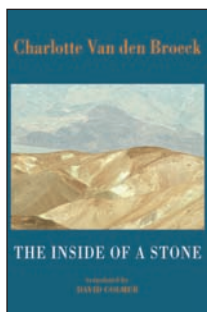
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**FEBRUARY 20**  
**KRISZTINA TÓTH**  
**My Secret Life**  
SELECTED POEMS  
tr. George Szirtes

Krisztina Tóth is one of the leading Hungarian poets of the generation who began publishing in the late 1980s. She is also renowned for her fiction which has been translated into many languages including English. *My Secret Life* is the first book of her poetry in English translation.

'Her work has the nervous energy of the times but is shaped by a deep and disciplined intelligence. Her subjects are invariably human. They are concerned with love, family, friendship, loss, and a kind of existential disaffection. Tragic in one sense but ever inventive, full of life's minute yet highly resonant particulars... She is a bravura formalist when she needs to be. Her vigour and scope are enormous.' – GEORGE SZIRTES



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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

*Chameleon | Nachtroer*



**FEBRUARY 20**  
**CHARLOTTE VAN DEN BROECK**  
**The Inside of a Stone**  
tr. David Colmer

After first making her mark as a compelling performer, Belgian poet Charlotte Van den Broeck was acclaimed as one of Europe's most innovative and original new voices in poetry. Her first two collections, *Chameleon* and *Nachtroer*, were published together in David Colmer's English translation by Bloodaxe in 2020.

Whereas those earlier books often return to childhood and youth in urban and European landscapes, the key sequence of *The Inside of a Stone* concentrates on desert landscapes and womanhood – and the emotional resonance between the two. With close observation and striking images she engages with the arid, eroded landscape of California's Death Valley.



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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

*A Hospital Odyssey*  
*Chaotic Angels*  
*Quantum Poetics*  
*Sparrow Tree*



**MARCH 27**  
**GWYNETH LEWIS**  
**First Rain in Paradise**

*First Rain in Paradise* is a book about falling. Gwyneth Lewis's highly inventive poems trace an interior landscape carved out by the trauma of childhood emotional abuse through subsequent chronic ill health and towards a hard-won resurrection. These accounts of living in and emerging from the dark wrestle with the angel of language. Shame is a lurking presence, and the book opens with 'Spiderings', a gothic horror sequence about the effects of maternal abuse.

**GWYNETH LEWIS** was Wales's inaugural National Poet. She has published several poetry collections – in Welsh and English – as well as memoirs, most recently *Nightshade Mother: A Disentangling* from University of Wales Press. She lives in Cardiff.



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128 pages • 216 x 138 mm  
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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

*Pure Hustle*  
*Feral*



## MARCH 27 KATE POTTS Pretenders

In *Pretenders*, her third book of poetry, Kate Potts asks: what is it like, as a daily, lived experience, to feel like a fraud or a fake? And what can 'the imposter phenomenon' – a sense that our true abilities and achievements, and other core aspects of our identities, are unreal, undeserved or mistakenly bestowed – tell us about who we are and how we relate to one another?

Through lively and vivid poetic monologues drawn from original interview material, and through original poetry, *Pretenders* begins to consider individual feelings and experiences of fraudulence, pretence and persona in a wider social and historical context.

**KATE POTTS'** second book-length collection, *Feral*, was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. She lives in Gloucestershire.



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Sri Lanka

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

*Love Without a Story*  
*When God Is a Traveller*  
*Where I Live: New &  
Selected Poems*



## MARCH 27 ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM The Gallery of Upside Down Women

Arundhati Subramaniam's poems map a wobbling world, trying to find its axis in a season of change. Fabrics tear, lands splinter, stances harden, loved ones die, names dissolve. But wandering through these pages are some extraordinary women – women who vault nimbly over borders, walk naked, walk askant, and sometimes upside down. These exuberant voices offer tips on how to retain one's spine through life's giddiest rollercoaster rides.

**ARUNDHATHI SUBRAMANIAM** has published three previous books of poetry with Bloodaxe including *When God Is a Traveller* (2014), which was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. She has written several books on Buddhism and spiritual figures, and lives in India and New York.



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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

*City Psalms*  
*Propa Propaganda*  
*To Do Wid Me*  
*Too Black, Too Strong*



## APRIL 15 BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH Dis Poetry SELECTED POEMS & LYRICS

Benjamin Zephaniah (1958-2023) was a writer and performer of extraordinary range: an oral poet, novelist, playwright, children's writer, reggae artist, actor, television personality and political activist. Born and raised in Birmingham, he was sent to an approved school for being uncontrollable, rebellious and 'a born failure', ending up in jail for burglary and affray. After prison he turned from crime to music and poetry. He was later nominated for Oxford Professor of Poetry, and voted Britain's third favourite poet of all time (after T.S. Eliot and John Donne) in a BBC poll.

Zephaniah was a poet who wouldn't stay silent, who wrote out of a sense of urgency and a commitment to social justice. Known for his performance poetry with a political edge for adults as well as his poetry with attitude for children, he had his own rap/reggae band. He was the first person to record with the Wailers after the death of

Bob Marley, in a musical tribute to Nelson Mandela, which Mandela heard while in prison on Robben Island.

*Dis Poetry* brings together the poems from his four collections as well as previously unpublished work and lyrics from recordings.

'He's left us with his charm, his poetry, his revolutionary ways, his caring for people, his inclusiveness.' – JOAN ARMATRADE on BBC Two's *Newsnight*

'The man was a force, an energy, a blast... Benjamin took everything life threw at him and turned it into poetry... His poems encourage us to never give up, to keep the flame of hope burning.' – JACKIE KAY, *The i paper*

Benjamin Zephaniah's many acting roles include preacher Jeremiah 'Jimmy' Jesus in *Peaky Blinders*.







## APRIL 24 PASCALE PETIT Beast

Mythic and familial beasts roam the swamps and moors of Pascale Petit's *Beast*. These spirits of the wild haunt the Camargue of Provence, the limestone Causses and gorges of the Languedoc, Indian tiger forests, the Amazon rainforest, and her home by Bodmin Moor in Cornwall. Some of these remote places are vestiges of earth's pristine habitats, while other wildernesses are encaged in cellars of Paris, along with the world's last species. Their essence is evoked in lithe and luxurious lines sometimes compressed as a trapped animal.

£12.99 paper  
978 1 78037 737 7  
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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Mama Amazonica*  
*Tiger Girl*



An estranged father reappears as a hunter, while Maman is an orb spider or a grand piano; both are predators. And there are earthly beasts, remnants of a vanishing natural world. *Beast* asks if survival is possible in an abusive family and on an abused home planet, with trials such as climate change, childhood trauma and war.



## APRIL 24 VIDYAN RAVINTHIRAN Avidyā

These poems emerged from two journeys of great personal significance, and out of a migrant sensibility tied to three different countries. In 2017, Vidyan Ravinthiran travelled to the north of Sri Lanka where his parents grew up. In 2020, he, his wife and their one-year-old moved from Britain to the US, just months before the pandemic hit. *Avidyā* is a political and a spiritual collection, whose multiple poetic forms, open and closed, are shaped by myth and philosophy, and by Sri Lankan as well as global crises.

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72 pages • 234 x 156mm  
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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Grun-tu-molani*  
*Out of Sri Lanka* (ed.)  
*The Million-petalled Flower*  
*of Being Here*



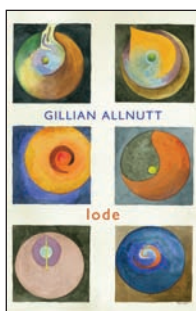
**VIDYAN RAVINTHIRAN** was born in Leeds, to Sri Lankan Tamils, and now teaches at Harvard. His books have been shortlisted for T.S. Eliot and Forward Prizes. He is co-editor of *Out of Sri Lanka* (2023).

## Western Façade

Scaffolding shrouds the western façade, as my taxi passes Notre-Dame. I have come to meet you again after thirty-five years, Papa. Men clean the limestone with brushes and lasers, millimetre by millimetre. Each time I come, more is revealed, as if they are working hard to make you clean, while you lie on your sickbed, gasping for breath, your lungs charred as the burnt rafters of a cathedral. *I have thought of you every day of my life, you say. Your face, when you speak, shines like marble through the scaffold of your oxygen mask. Only after you die will I see your features clear, as if centuries of grime have been scrubbed from the colossus of your body, all history erased.*

**PASCALE PETIT**  
FROM *Beast*

**PASCALE PETIT** was born in Paris, grew up in France and Wales, and lives in Cornwall. She is of French, Welsh, and Indian heritage. Her seventh collection *Mama Amazonica* (2017), a Poetry Book Society Choice, won the RSL Ondaatje Prize 2018 and the Laurel Prize 2020. *Tiger Girl* (2020) was shortlisted for the 2020 Forward Prize for Best Collection and for Wales Book of the Year 2021. *Beast* is her ninth collection and her third from Bloodaxe.



## MAY 22 GILLIAN ALLNUTT lode

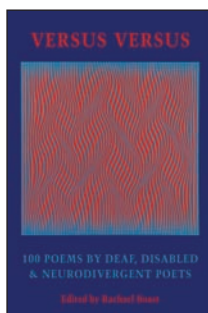
The *lode* in Gillian Allnutt's title picks up on two of the many meanings of the word. A *lode* can be a course, a way, a journey; also a road, a lane. Her collection traces a journey through time, the time of her own life and of our lives since the Second World War. *Lode* also means guidance, here the guidance afforded by the continuity and relative stability – economic, cultural, spiritual – of Britain's postwar years. That sense of stability ended with Covid, which found Gillian Allnutt isolated in the former pit village of Esh Winning in Co. Durham, her home for the past 30 years.

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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*How the Bicycle Shone: New & Selected Poems*  
*indwelling*  
*wake*



**GILLIAN ALLNUTT** was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2016. Two of her nine collections were shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize.



£14.99 paper  
978 1 78037 731 5  
208 pages • 234 x 156mm  
Rights: World

## MAY 22

### VERSUS VERSUS

100 Deaf, Disabled & Neurodivergent Poets  
ed. Rachael Boast

The word *versus* means pitching one thing against another. To be *versus versus*, therefore, is a paradox, but paradox can be helpful – it can open a space for deeper thought. This anthology aims to be such a space. It brings together one hundred deaf, disabled and neurodivergent poets from across the international arena, from emerging voices to world-renowned authors, and offers an urgent redress, unpicking many misapprehensions and misrepresentations.

The reader will encounter poems of love and pain, self-care and companionship; poems which challenge cultural, medical and political agendas and policies. There are war poems, poems as acts of witness and solidarity, poems which address the impact of the climate emergency. There are humorous poems, nature poems, and much more. The selection also draws together poetry in a wide variety of styles and forms, and from different traditions, such as haiku, renga, sonnet, villanelle, prose poem, performance poem, and sign language.



£14.99 paper  
978 1 78037 746 9  
192 pages • 234 x 156 mm  
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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Lammas Alanna*  
*Marra Familia*

## MAY 22

### WILLIAM MARTIN

#### Marratide

SELECTED POEMS  
ed. Peter Armstrong &  
Jake Morris-Campbell

William Martin (1925-2010) was a poet of extraordinary vision and musicality. Thoroughly grounded in his native North-East England, its pit communities and industry, his song-like poems nevertheless traverse a vast geographical and historical landscape ranging from deep Celtic and Anglo-Saxon sources to the mythology and sacred sites of India, via a passionate political engagement that never limits song to mere rhetoric. He also drew on children's games, ballads and street songs in poems showing both political anger and a wider concern for a society losing its common ground, its rituals and rites of passage.



Building on the work of decades of disability justice advocacy, *Versus Versus* offers a poetry of assertiveness and immense vitality.

**RACHAEL BOAST** is a British writer, editor and disability advocate, navigating Ichthyosis and related conditions. She has published four collections of poetry with Picador, *Sidered* (2011), *Pilgrim's Flower* (2013), *Void Studies* (2016) and *Hotel Raphael* (2021).

*Versus Versus* was prepared with the help of an Advocacy and Advisory Panel, with grateful thanks to Karthika Nair, Chisom Okafor and Daniel Sluman, and with assistance from an RSL Literature Matters Award.

## Announced June • Publication September 25

### Winner of the Mslexia Women's Poetry Pamphlet Competition 2024

Judged by Imtiaz Dharker. Courtney Conrad's *I Am Evidence* (2023) won the 2022 competition and the Michael Marks Poetry Award. Nia Broomhall's debut pamphlet *Backalong* (2024) won the 2023 competition. Winner to be announced in June 2025 issue of *Mslexia*.

£7.50 pamphlet • 978 1 78037 780 3 • 32 pages  
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80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Dead Redhead*  
*No Hiding Place*  
*Not in This World*



## SEPTEMBER 25

### TRACEY HERD

#### Mute

In *Mute*, an abusive, damaged man lives with two partners, one in the present who is silenced by his gaslighting behaviour, the other a dead former lover. All three are frozen in a stifling, claustrophobic prison of his making, with the living, vulnerable partner haunted not so much by the dead woman herself as by the saintly version he voices to taunt her with. Traumatized by past events – and stuck in his own false narrative of betrayal and disappointment – the man puts words into her mouth. In *Mute* a silenced woman is allowed to be herself and to speak through Tracey Herd's intense and often harrowing sequence of poems.

**TRACEY HERD's** previous collection *Not in This World* (2015) was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize.



## SEPTEMBER 25 CLARE POLLARD **Lives of the Female Poets**

Clare Pollard cocks a snook at Dr Johnson's all-male *Lives of the Poets* in chronicling her own life and theirs in her *Lives of the Female Poets*. These portraits and self portraits offer glimpses into the poet's own everyday life all whilst in conversation with female poets through the ages. The poems remix, adapt and channel figures from Enheduanna through to Wanda Coleman. Probing the idea of the 'Poetess' over time, her subjects include Anne Locke, L.E.L., Elizabeth Bishop, Emily Brontë, Sylvia Plath and Anne Sexton.

£12 paper  
978 1 78037 747 6  
80 pages  
234 x 156mm  
Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Bedtime; Changeling  
Incarnation; Look, Clare!  
Look!; Ovid's Heroines;  
The Heavy-Petting Zoo*



**CLARE POLLARD** has published five other collections and a translation, *Ovid's Heroines*, with Bloodaxe. Her other books include novels, non-fiction and a children's book. She lives in London.



## SEPTEMBER 25 JESSICA TRAYNOR **New Arcana**

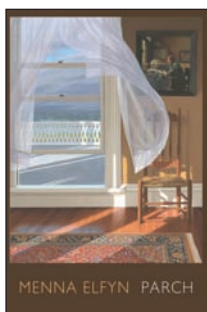
Jessica Traynor's *New Arcana* explores grief, bad boyfriends and the power of female friendship through readings of the Tarot and Tim Burton movies. Moving from teenage friendship and destructive relationships towards a tangling with the realities of family life, domesticity, and desire, this highly inventive collection builds into a heartbroken letter to a dear friend who died by suicide. Interwoven with numbered poems from a newly imagined Major Arcana, *New Arcana* celebrates both the holding on, and the letting go.

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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Pit Lullabies*



**JESSICA TRAYNOR** received the Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry 2023. She has published three other collections, *Liffey Swim* (2014) and *The Quick* (2019) from Dedalus and *Pit Lullabies* (2022) from Bloodaxe. She lives in Dublin.



## OCTOBER 23 MENNA ELFYN **Parch**

In Welsh, 'parch' (the 'ch' is guttural) simply means respect. But it is also the common word for a chapel minister (a 'reverend'). Menna Elfyn's collection explores the many ways in which respect can be expressed, as well as how our world can so often feel *parched* of simple kindnesses. The poems offer a voice to those whose liberty or dignity have been undermined, seeking religious, linguistic and cultural tolerance for all, and not shying away from the effects of (in)humanity on our environment, histories and lives. For the first time in a Bloodaxe collection, she has translated or written many of the original poems in English and describes herself as a 'proud bilingual'.

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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Bondo; Murmur; Perfect  
Blemish / Perffaith Nam;  
The Bloodaxe Book of  
Modern Welsh Poetry (ed.)*



**MENNA ELFYN** is one of the foremost Welsh-language writers. She lives in Carmarthen.



## OCTOBER 23 SELIMA HILL **A Man, a Woman and a Hippopotamus**

Selima Hill's 22nd book of poetry presents ten sequences of short poems, prose poems and short pieces on relationships and doings between people, animals and the world at large:

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**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Gloria: Selected Poems* (2008) and eleven later collections most recently *Women in Comfortable Shoes* (2023) & *Men Who Feed Pigeons* (2023)



*Self-portrait with a Bucket  
The Mathematician  
A Man, a Woman & a Chihuahua  
Baby Peter  
Men in Shorts / Bonkers  
Until the Tears Roll Down My Cheeks  
like Honey  
The Surly Mothers of Successful Men*

**SELIMA HILL's** collections have been shortlisted for all the main poetry prizes, with *Bunny* winning the Whitbread Poetry Award. She was awarded The King's Gold Medal for Poetry, 2022, recognising in particular her Bloodaxe retrospective, *Gloria: Selected Poems* (2008).





## OCTOBER 23 KIT WRIGHT Jug Band Jag

Lovers of Kit Wright's poetry – for its range and virtuosity, deep feeling and rich humour – may find his new gathering exceeds expectations. *Jug Band Jag* is a wonderfully spirited bout of poetry-making whose forms and themes are markedly diverse, while the concern for musicality is constant. Whether, that is, he is dispensing the low-down on the Gunpowder Plot, or a ghost story from the world of dry-cleaning, or a fairy tale about ox tongue; reflecting on Hitler as artist, or tracing the frustrations of a career mafioso. His vision of the world blends the sharply realistic with a distinctive brand of surrealism.

**KIT WRIGHT** has published over 25 books for adults and children, most recently *Ode to Didcot Power Station* (2014). He lives in London.

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### ALSO AVAILABLE:

*Ode to Didcot Power Station*



## NOVEMBER 20 PIA TAFDRUP The Sound of Clouds The Sight of Light The Touch of Skin tr. David McDuff

Pia Tafdrup is one of Denmark's leading poets. She has published over 20 books in Danish since her first collection appeared in 1981, including widely admired sequences of themed collections. The latest of these is a series of five books focussing on the human senses, her *Senses Quintet* (2014-2022), which the critic Carsten Palmer Schale has called 'a cathedral of the soul'

Bloodaxe published David McDuff's translation of the first two collections in the quintet, *The Taste of Steel* and *The Smell of Snow*, in one volume in 2021. This edition brings together his translations of the third, fourth and fifth parts, *The Sight of Light*, *The Sound of Clouds* and *The Touch of Skin*.

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### ALSO AVAILABLE:

*Queen's Gate*  
*Salamander Sun*  
*Tarkovsky's Horses*  
*The Taste of Steel* • *The Smell of Snow*



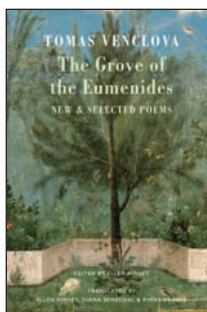
## NOVEMBER 20 IVAN V. LALIĆ The Taste of Lightning SELECTED POEMS ed. & tr. Francis R. Jones

*The Taste of Lightning* is a new selection of poems by Ivan V. Lalić (1931–1996), one of 20th-century Yugoslavia's most crucial poets.

Lalić's poetry is alive with seeing and feeling the world – a world of sun and wind, water and fire. He is also a poet of love – a love for his wife Branka that 'matures like wine' over the decades. From adolescence, through young adulthood, to the onset of old age, where 'We are twin foci of the same ellipse... Which links two other foci: death and love'.

*The Taste of Lightning* introduces new readers to this grand master of European poetry, combining revisions of previously published translations with poems not seen before in English.

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160 pages • 234 x 138mm  
Rights: World



## NOVEMBER 20 TOMAS VENCLOVA The Grove of the Eumenides NEW & SELECTED POEMS tr. Ellen Hinsey, Diana Senechal & Rimas Uzgis ed. Ellen Hinsey

With *The Grove of the Eumenides*, Lithuania's Tomas Venclova affirms his place as one of Europe's greatest living poets. The heir to Akhmatova, Mandelstam and Miłosz, Venclova's masterful poetry upholds a vision of the world that enables us to endure the darkness of our time through his singular insights, ethical endurance and profound compassion. His work addresses the desolate landscape of the aftermath of totalitarianism, as well as the ethical constants that allow for hope and perseverance. This new selection follows *The Junction* (2008) and covers more of Venclova's later work.

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### ALSO AVAILABLE:

*The Junction: Selected Poems*



## FLEUR ADCOCK (1934–2024)

### Collected Poems



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624 pages • 234 x 156 mm  
**10 February 2024**

Rights: World exc.  
New Zealand & Australia  
(Te Herenga Waka  
University Press)

Born in New Zealand in 1934, Fleur Adcock became one of Britain's most accomplished poets. Her poised, ironic poems are tense and tightly controlled as well as shrewdly laconic, and often chilling as she unmasks the deceptions of love or unravels family lives. Disarmingly conversational in style, they are remarkable for their psychological insight and unsentimental, mischievously casual view of personal relationships.

She explored questions of identity and rootedness throughout her work, both in relation to her personal allegiances to her native and adopted countries as well as her family history. She also wrote movingly of birth, death and bereavement, and tackled

political issues with honest indignation and caustic wit. This first complete edition of her poetry was published on her 90th birthday, superseding her earlier retrospective, *Poems 1960-2000*, with the addition of five later Bloodaxe collections along with 20 new poems. She died in 2024.



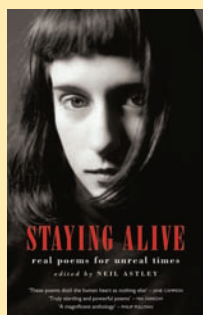
After an OBE in 1996, Fleur Adcock received the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry for 2006 from H.M. Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.



In 2019 Fleur Adcock was presented with the New Zealand Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Poetry 2019 by Dame Jacinda Ardern.



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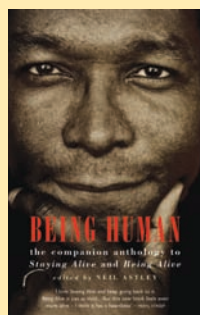
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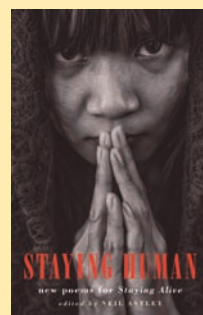
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— BERNARDINE EVARISTO

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