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## FEBRUARY 23 PETER BENNET Nayler & Folly Wood

**NEW & SELECTED POEMS** 

Poetry Book Society
Special Commendation

In Peter Bennet's poetry nothing is what it seems to be. Modern spaces are haunted by the past and the unreal. We cannot tell the encroacher from the encroached. This comprehensive selection includes his major sequences The Long Pack, ligger Nods, Folly Wood, Bobby Bendick's Ride, Landscape with Psyche and Ladderedge and Cotislea. Added to those now is a powerfully imagined new sequence bridging three centuries to evoke the voice of the Quaker James Nayler, who was abominably punished for 'horrid blasphemy'.

**PETER BENNET**'s collection *The Glass Swarm* was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize in 2008. He lives in North Shields.



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Stitching the Dark:
New & Selected Poems



### FEBRUARY 23 CAROLE SATYAMURTI The Hopeful Hat

Poetry Book Society Recommendation

The Hopeful Hat is Carole Satyamurti's eighth and final collection. These late poems are informed by her keen eye for social injustice as well as the breadth of her compassion. Poignantly, they are also her nuanced poetic response to having her voice box removed following a diagnosis of laryngeal cancer. The poems' formal accomplishment is carried lightly; characteristically, it is this light touch that enables her to move so deeply. Clear-eyed in facing her own mortality, she produced a series of courageous poems 'laced with the hard stuff' (Carol Ann Duffy) that are also graced with her unique and subtle wit.

CAROLE SATYAMURTI (1939-2019) was a poet and psychologist. Her Mahabharata: A Modern Retelling (Norton, 2015) was joint winner of the inaugural Roehampton Poetry Prize.



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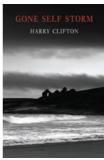
About Poems and how poems are not about Five Looks at Elizabeth Bishop



## FEBRUARY 23 ANNE STEVENSON Collected Poems

Anne Stevenson (1933-2020) was a major American and British poet. Born in Cambridge of American parents, she grew up in the States but lived in Britain for most of her adult life. Rooted in close observation of the world and acute psychological insight, her poems continually question how we see and think about the world. They are incisive as well as entertaining, marrying critical rigour with personal feeling, and a sharp wit with an original brand of serious humour.

Her Collected Poems is a remaking of Anne Stevenson's earlier Poems 1955-2005 (2005), expanded to include poems from her final three books, Stone Milk (2007), Astonishment (2012) and Completing the Circle (2020), drawing on sixteen collections presented in their original order of publication.



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## MARCH 23 HARRY CLIFTON Gone Self Storm

For half a century of everbroadening vision, award-winning poet Harry Clifton has addressed what The Irish Times calls 'his large concerns and his angular relationship to Ireland, one that produces extraordinary verbal and emotional effects'. His latest book is a quest, through origin and migration, South America to the North of Ireland, Khao I Dang refugee camp to Glasnevin graveyard, for a lost maternal ground.

'Soul, song and formal necessity, Clifton has all three – he is one of the poets who matter.'

- DEREK MAHON

HARRY CLIFTON has published ten other books of poetry. He was Ireland Professor of Poetry in 2010–2013, and teaches at Trinity College Dublin.



£12.99 paper 978 | 78037 649 3 192 pages • 234 x 156 mm Rights: World

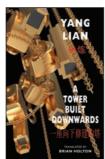




# MARCH 23 DAVID HARSENT A Broken Man in Flower versions of YANNIS RITSOS Introduction by John Kittmer

Yannis Ritsos (1909-90) was - along with Cavafy, Seferis and Elytis one of the most significant Greek poets of the last century, yet his books were banned by successive right-wing governments and he was imprisoned several times. Under the repressive Papadopoulos military junta he was sent to prison camps before being confined to house arrest on the island of Samos. The violence and tyranny of dictatorship is often fractured by the surreal. In the poems collected here from that period, that fracture in perception is a wound.

DAVID HARSENT's thirteen collections have won a number of awards, including the Forward Prize, the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Griffin International Poetry Prize.



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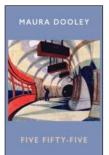
ALSO AVAILABLE:
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Jade Ladder
Lee Valley Poems
Narrative Poem
Where the Sea Stands Still



# MARCH 23 YANG LIAN A Tower Built Downwards Tr. Brian Holton

Before and since his enforced exile from China in 1989, Yang Lian has been one of the most innovative and influential Chinese poets. The poems of A Tower Built Downwards, written between 2019 and 2021, draw on his experience of the historical retrogression of Hong Kong, the disaster of Covid-19, and a global spiritual crisis, as well as personal sadness at events such as his father's death. The cover Ai Weiwei designed for Yang Lian has CCTV cameras and chains made of gold stretching around the whole book, becoming an extraordinary metaphor for its content.

YANG LIAN was one of the socalled Misty Poets who reacted against the Cultural Revolution and had their work banned in during the 1980s. He lives in London.



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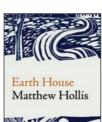
ALSO AVAILABLE: Life Under Water Sound Barrier The Honey Gatherers The Silvering



## APRIL 27 MAURA DOOLEY Five Fifty-Five

Maura Dooley's poetry is remarkable for embracing both lyricism and political consciousness, for its fusion of head and heart. Five Fifty-Five is her sixth collection. These are quizzical poems concerned with time and mortality which ask fundamental questions about our lives, such as Where have you gone? and Who were you anyway? She tries to find out through conversations with, among others, Louisa M. Alcott, Hokusai, Iane Austen, Buzz Aldrin, Anne Tyler and the Great Uncle and Grandfather she never knew.

MAURA DOOLEY has lived in London for the past 30 years. She lectures at Goldsmiths' College. Her collections have been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize twice and received three Poetry Book Society Recommendations.



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ALSO AVAILABLE: Ground Water Strong Words



### APRIL 27 MATTHEW HOLLIS Earth House

In Earth House, Matthew Hollis evokes the landscape, language and ecology of the isles of Britain and Ireland to explore how our most intimate moments have resonance in the wider cycle of life. What emerges is a moving meditation on time and the transformative phases of nature. Subtly attuned to the rhythms of the turning world, these poems open with the passing of an old life and culminate in the birth of a new one.

MATTHEW HOLLIS'S Ground Water (2004) was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Whitbread Poetry Award. His other books include Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas (2011) and The Waste Land: A Biography of a Poem (2022).



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ALSO AVAILABLE: The River When the Tree Falls

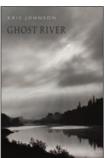


### **MAY 25 JANE CLARKE** A Change in the Air

lane Clarke's third collection is farreaching and yet precisely rooted in time and place. In luminous language her poems explore how people, landscape and culture shape us. Voices of the past and present reverberate with courage and resilience in the face of poverty, prejudice, war and exile and the everyday losses of living. Across six sequences these intimate poems accrue power and resonance in what is essentially a book of love poems to our beautiful, fragile world.

'Clarke knows exactly how much to withhold so that the understated artful phrases echo eloquently across the white space of the unsaid.' - MARTINA EVANS, The Irish Times

JANE CLARKE grew up on a farm in Co. Roscommon in Ireland. She now lives in Co. Wicklow.



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### **MAY 25** KRIS JOHNSON **Ghost River**

'Kris Johnson's Ghost River is a book full of water - from the beautiful and dangerous lakes from the landscape of childhood to the waterways mapped by George Vancouver in the late 1700s. Mapping - of space, place and connection - is abundant in these poems, which explore family history, birth and motherhood with extraordinary and tender precision of language. The natural world rises through Johnson's writing, both in real manifestations and as metaphor, and the landscape of the Pacific Northwest forms the backbone of this collection. which is both wonderful and full of wonder.' - HANNAH LOWE



KRIS IOHNSON is from America's Washington state but has lived in the UK since 2007, latterly in North Shields. Ghost River is her first book-length collection.



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### **MAY 25** YVONNE REDDICK **Burning Season**

Burning Season is a book about fire and survival, climate change and nature's defiance. Yvonne Reddick's understanding of climate change is uniquely personal: her father was a petroleum engineer, and many members of her family worked in the fossil fuel industry. The collection speaks of the paradox that her Dad's gift to her was her love of nature and mountain landscapes. Burning Season includes a series of vivid, moving and heartfelt poems that explore her grief following her father's death in a hiking accident. These are set against a wider backdrop of ecological loss and heartbreak.

YVONNE REDDICK is a writer. editor, eco-poetry scholar and climber, the author of four pamphlets. She lives in Manchester.



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ALSO AVAILABLE: Gloria: Selected Poems (2008) and ten later collections.



### **JUNE 22 SELIMA HILL** Women in **Comfortable Shoes**

Hot on the heels of Men Who Feed Pigeons, Selima Hill's 21st collection has eleven contrasting but wellfitting sequences of short poems relating to women: My Friend Weasel, set in a 50s girls' boarding school. Susan and Me, on female friendship. Dolly: women and ducks. My Mother with a Beetle in Her Hair, a daughter's passion for swimming. Fridge speaks of death, grief and absence. My Spanish Swimsuit: a daughter fears her rabbit-trapping father. The Chauffeur: a pair of badtempered sisters. And women growing old in Girls without Hamsters, Reduced to a Quivering Jelly and Dressed and Sobbing.

SELIMA HILL's collections have been shortlisted for all the main poetry prizes, with Bunny winning the Whitbread Poetry Award.





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### **JUNE 22 OUT OF SRI LANKA**

Tamil, Sinhala and English poetry from Sri Lanka and its diasporas Ed. Vidvan Ravinthiran. Seni Seneviratne & Shash Trevett

This first ever anthology of Sri Lankan and diasporic poetry features over a hundred poets writing in English, or translated from Tamil and Sinhala. It brings to light a longneglected national literature, and reshapes our understanding of migrational poetics and the poetics of atrocity. There are poems here about love, art, nature - and others exploring critical events: the Marxist IVP insurrections of the 1970s and 80s, the 2004 tsunami and its aftermath, recent bombings linked with the demonisation of Muslim communities. The civil war between the government and the separatist Tamil Tigers is a haunting and continual presence. A poetry of witness challenges those who would erase, rather than enquire into, the country's troubled past.

### **IUNE 22 MARK WALDRON** A Straight Up Giant



MARK WALDRON works in advertising in London. His two books from Salt were followed by Meanwhile, Trees and Sweet, like Rinky-Dink from Bloodaxe.

### **Grassfields in Sunlight**

Now at one end of them the squatters' shacks Hurt the eyes with their tin-white roofs, And the stench of rotting dirt Piled on the tree-roots Disturbs the old images.

Once these were fields Turned into seas or mountains By childhood, and the wind's cries Were horses' hooves and the whining grass A tale one listened to in the moth-brushed night.

I remember the sun over these fields Like a fisherman netting In green water, shocking everything with its Scathing radiance, On a day that fell in the reeds And was irretrievable.

ALFREDA DE SILVA (1930-2001) FROM Out of Sri Lanka

VIDYAN RAVINTHIRAN was born in Leeds to Sri Lankan Tamils. He has published two collections with Bloodaxe and teaches at Harvard, SENI SENEVIRATNE is a writer of English and Sri Lankan heritage published by Peepal Tree Press, shash trevett is a Tamil from Sri Lanka who came to the UK to escape the civil war. She is a poet and a translator of Tamil poetry into English.

**SEPTEMBER 14** 

**IEN CAMPBELL** 

Please Do Not

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explores disability, storytelling,

trauma. Jen Campbell writes of

discussing her own relationship

with hospitals - both as a disabled

person, and as an adult reflecting

on childhood while going through

Victorian circus and folklore.

and the process of mythologising

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ALSO AVAILABLE: The Girl Aquarium



'len Campbell's astounding second collection draws us into a world of mythology, sea monsters and metamorphosis. These are hauntingly beautiful poems that catalogue transformation in all of its horror and joy, strangeness and tenderness.' - CYNTHIA MILLER

JEN CAMPBELL is a bestselling author of children's picture books as well as a popular books vlogger. She lives in London



ALSO AVAILABLE: Meanwhile, Trees Sweet, like Rinky-Dink

£12 paper







£12.99 paper 978 | 78037 663 9 | 112 pages 228.6 x | 52.4mm Rights: World exc. North America (Knopf)

ALSO AVAILABLE: ordinary beast

## SEPTEMBER 14 NICOLE SEALEY the ferguson report: an erasure

Three years after the murder of Michael Brown by police in Ferguson, Missouri – the trigger for riots across the US – Nicole Sealey began making erasures from the Department of Justice's 2015 report detailing bias in the city's policing and court practices.

Sealey's erasures leave the original report's stilted, bureaucratic language still readable in grey; the flashes of lyric which appear inside it become a commentary on the suffering and lived experience the report suppresses.

Encountering the ferguson report: an erasure as a work of art – scanning its pages as if it were an ancient fragment, as if sifting through sand – is both stunning and awful, and creates a perfectly terrifying and beautiful counterpoint to the report itself. Something happens to the brain as it tries to track Sealey's words and syntax at the same time as it tries both to read and not read the report.

In the ferguson report: an erasure Sealey has captured an unusual hybrid act of mind that is equal parts language processing and visual processing. In its refusal to turn away, in its refusal to be silenced, in its refusal to allow be made spectacle, Sealey has created something lasting that speaks to history, to the present, and to the future.

'Nicole Sealey's the ferguson report: an erasure comes to us first in fragments — at times not even syllables, ah or id — but as a feeling, the unsayable constructing itself as we read along or listen. The paced rhythm is almost painfully made as if fleshy blips on the heart meter — a ghostly master text beneath.'

— YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA

Nicole Sealey won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 2021 with an excerpt from the ferguson report: an erasure, earning the judges' praise for creating 'new moments of lyrical beauty and contemplation' out of 'stifling obfuscations' to shine 'a light on all that the report tries to hide', with Shivanee Ramlochan calling it 'a poem of resonant cultural and social value'.



£10.99 paper 978 I 78037 665 3 80 pages 228.6 x I52.4mm Rights: World exc. North America (Ecco)

### SEPTEMBER 14 NICOLE SEALEY ordinary beast

First published in the US in 2017, Nicole Sealey's debut collection ordinary beast was a finalist for the PEN Open Book Award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award.

'Though these poems are attuned to their own devastation, they continue unapologetically with their own aspirations.' – CLAUDIA RANKINE

'Nothing ordinary here. But beast? Yeah, that's it. This thing has teeth.'

- PATRICIA SMITH

'Nicole Sealey is a poet for the ages, and this is a stunning debut.'

— TRACY K. SMITH

'These poems are marvels that should be read, re-read, and read aloud to others.' – AMY TAN

'These are poems of thrilling sonic and syntactical play, formal dexterity, mythmaking, and delight in the ordinary rendered strange by new juxtapositions.' – NATASHA TRETHEWEY



NICOLE SEALEY was born in St Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, and raised in Apopka, Florida. She has won numerous awards in the US. She was Executive Director at Cave Canem Foundation in 2017-19, and started The Sealey Challenge in 2017, an annual online community challenge to read a book of poetry each day for the month of August. She is a visiting professor at Boston University, and lives in Brooklyn.

### Winner of the *Mslexia* Women's Pamphlet Competition 2022

Mslexia's competition was previously judged by Seren's now retired poetry editor Amy Wack with the pamphlets published by Seren. Bloodaxe took over from Seren in 2022 competition, with Imtiaz Dharker as the new judge. Four previous winners have gone on to have books published by Seren, and two – Sarah Wimbush and Yvonne Reddick – by Bloodaxe.

WINNER ANNOUNCED IN MSLEXIA ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2023 £6 pamphlet • 978 | 78037 656 | • 32 pages 210 x | 140mm • Rights: World



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### ALSO AVAILABLE: Ten: new poets from Spread the Word (2010) Ten: the new wave (2014) Ten: poets of the new generation (2017)





KAREN McCARTHY WOOLF edited the second two Ten anthologies in The Complete Works series. NATHALIE TEITLER is director of The Complete Works.

### OCTOBER 19 **MAPPING THE FUTURE The Complete Works Poets**

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the 30 poets, touching on the

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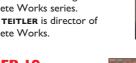
### **OCTOBER 19 KAYCEE HILL Red Sauce**

**James Berry Poetry Prize** 

Kaycee Hill frankly explores coming of age as a woman - and the intricacies of connection and memory - against an urban-pastoral landscape. Reflecting on her life and those in it, as well as first-times, underground scenes and the female body, she looks towards what is unflinchingly personal, and also outwards: towards family and strangers, nature and place, and a world that shapeshifts before us.

'Kaycee Hill's urban eco-poems are always awake to the beauty that can be found in unexpected places ...her lyric imagination takes us on a journey through the complexities of coming of age in a small workingclass town.' - AVIVA DAUTCH

KAYCEE HILL spent five years as carer and healthcare worker. She now lives in Southampton.





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### OCTOBER 19 **MARJORIE LOTFI The Wrong Person** to Ask

**James Berry Poetry Prize** 

Marjorie Lotfi's award-winning debut collection is a book of two halves. each a meditation on the idea of home, both the places we start and end up in our lives. Spanning a childhood in Iran dislocated by revolution, through years as a young woman in America, to her current home in Scotland, these poems ask what it means to come from somewhere else, what we carry with us when we leave, and how we land in a new place and finally come to rest.

'A wondrous treasure - elegant poems of great tenderness and detail, vivid in heart and imagery, mesmerising in power.' - NAOMI SHIHAB NYE

MARJORIE LOTFI co-founded Open Book. She lives in Edinburgh.



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### ALSO AVAILABLE: Apparently Trawlerman's Turquoise



### **NOVEMBER 16 MATTHEW CALEY** To Abandon Wizardry

Matthew Caley's seventh collection speeds through a world where it's harder to tell what's 'real' and what's not. We could say Harry Potter World is an alibi for the rest of Britain, because the rest of Britain is Harry Potter World. We could nod at Deep Fake, QAnon, fake news and official news, all manner of waning national myth. A mesh-protected sapling seems to transmit all the polyglot talk of the city. Either side are revenants, disembowelled wizards, talking horses and flying houses. To Abandon Wizardry forges its aesthetic out of the simulation, hyper-association, and over-stimulation of living in the 21st Century. And it's all true.

MATTHEW CALEY's books include three earlier collections with Bloodaxe. He lives in London.





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### ALSO AVAILABLE: The Nine of Diamonds



### **NOVEMBER 16 MACGILLIVRAY Ravage** AN ASTONISHMENT OF FIRE

Ravage: An Astonishment of Fire draws together MacGillivray's extensive research into the life and work of Norwegian-Shetlandic poet Kristián Norge. who vanished from the Outer Hebridean Isle of Bàs in 1961. Comprising two previously unpublished manuscripts by Norge, Optik: A History of Ghost (1950) and Ravage (1961), this collection also includes rare original material, giving insight The Gaelic Garden of the Dead into Norge's troubled existence and mysterious disappearance. A work of fiction entitled The Wind of Voices, which is based on this mercurial period in Norge's life, concludes the collection.

> MACGILLIVRAY is the Highland name of writer and artist Kirsten Norrie, now based in Oxford.



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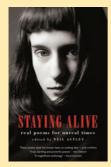


This was supposed to be a book about intimacy: what it might look like in solitude, in partnership, and in terms of collective responsibility. Instead, the poems are preoccupied with pop music, etymology, surveillance equipment and cervical examination, church architecture and beetles. Just about anything, in fact, except what intimacy is or looks like. This is a book that runs on failure, and also a book about failures. Here are abrupt estrangements and errors of translation. frustrations and ellipses, failed investigations. And beetles.



ABIGAIL PARRY's first collection linx (2018) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and Seamus Heaney Centre First Collection Poetry Prize. She lives in Cardiff.

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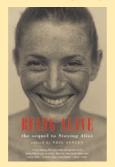


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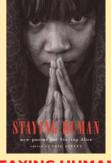


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