

BAD BETTY PRESS

POETRY
2022

New titles &
full catalogue



SHANE MCCRAE

WHO RUNS STILL IN MY BLOOD

WHO CHASES?
WHOSE BLOOD
DARKENS WHERE
THEY MEET? WHO
FIGHTS STILL IN
MY HEART
FOR WHAT?

HEX AND OTHER POEMS

ABOUT US



Bad Betty founders: Amy Acre and Jake Wild Hall

Contacts:
Amy Acre / Jake Wild Hall

Trade orders / enquiries:
info@badbettypress.com

Wholesale discount:
40-45%

Also available
via Gardners

Bad Betty Press is an independent publisher of new poetry, established in 2017. We love writing that is bad (meaning good) and beautiful ('a Betty' in 90s slang). We believe strongly in art's capacity to challenge its own definition, to curve away from the norm, making space for more and varied voices.

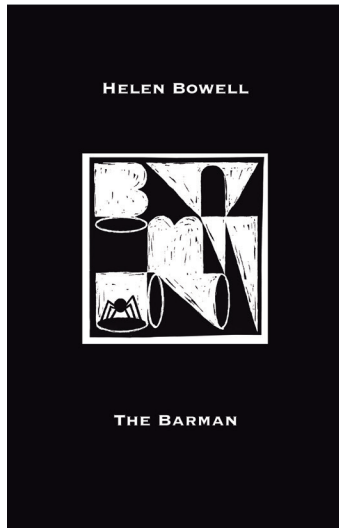
Our books include **Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choices**, **Poetry School Books of the Year**, a *Telegraph* **Poetry Book of the Month**, **Laurel Prize** longlistees and **BAMB Readers Award** shortlistees. We've been thrice shortlisted for the **Michael Marks Publishers Award**, named The Book Hive's Indie Publisher of the Month, and described by *The Big Issue* as 'the epitome of bold independence'.

This year, we received a historic grant from Arts Council England—their very first £30K Small Project Grant—which we're using to publish 12 books of poetry by 12 exceptional writers, and to programme a UK-wide tour of live readings.

Our 2022 titles include full-length collections by two award-winning writers: *Whatever You've Got*, the third book from acclaimed poet, theatre-maker and screenwriter **Molly Naylor** (April). And *Housebreak*, the debut collection from Okinawan American poet, **Shareen K. Murayama** (July).

We're proud to be publishing pamphlets by **Helen Howell**, **Eve Esfandiari-Denney**, **Christopher Lanyon**, **Shane McCrae**, **Jess Murrain**, **Shanay Neusum-James**, **Anja Konig**, **Melissa Lee-Houghton**, **Kandace Siobhan Williams** and **Cai Draper**—a list that includes Costa and T.S. Eliot Prize shortlistees, and winners of the White Review Poets' Prize, Ledbury Poetry Competition and more.

As always, we're committed to publishing the most exciting, innovative work from new and established writers, honouring the diversity of contemporary poetry and poets, shining a light on stories less often told, and putting fresh and emboldening language into readers' hands.

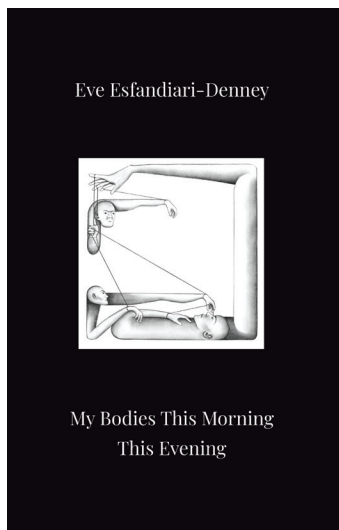


The Barman
HELEN BOWELL

28th January 2022, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-913268-25-1

A witty exploration of the nuances of a sometimes reluctant codependency. At times it feels like you are the third housemate, pressing your ear to the wall to hear conversations as intimate as they are absurd. Bowell deftly interrogates what it means to feel both othered and adored, comfortable and wary.

‘A unique collection of poems so full of heart, humour and ache.’ Rachel Long

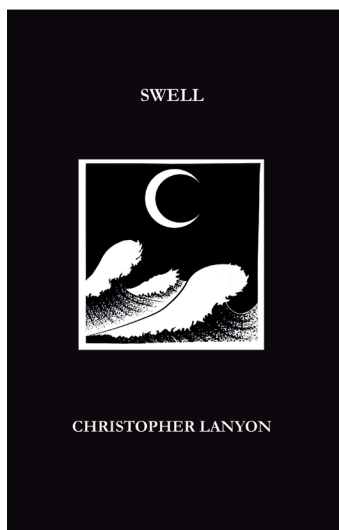


My Bodies This Morning This Evening
EVE ESFANDIARI-DENNEY

28th February 2022, £6, PB, 34pp, 978-1-913268-24-4

In Eve Esfandiari-Denney’s debut, we see the body in so many states—ranging from survival to affection—that it achieves a sense of the elusive. Like water, Esfandiari-Denney’s poems move and seep into the gaps that exist between ourselves and the languages that define us.

**‘A remarkable, original, profound debut.’
Jack Underwood**

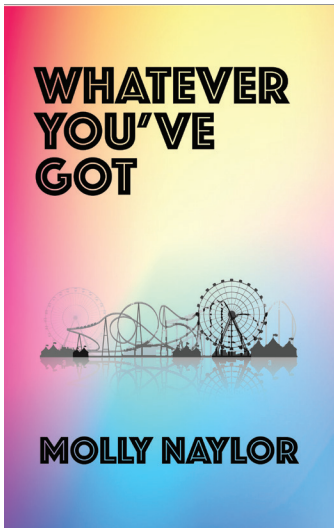


swell
CHRISTOPHER LANYON

18th March 2022, £6, PB, 34pp, 978-1-913268-26-8

Christopher Lanyon’s playful, topographical poems embody what it means to swell: in the rising and falling breath of landscape, in the joyous vulnerability of intense friendship and love, in the wake of the inexorable changes to which body and world are bound. This pamphlet takes a kaleidoscopic view of the material; full of flex and growth, feather and claw.

‘Raw, sharp and compelling, each poem in *swell* asks – where does it hurt?’ Ella Frears

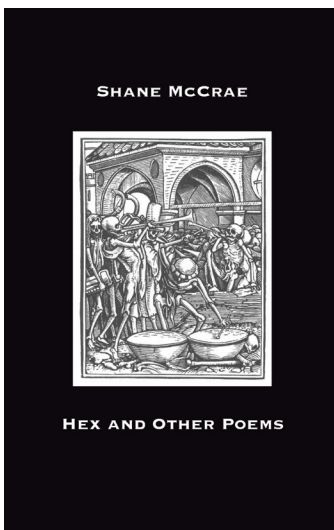


Whatever You've Got
MOLLY NAYLOR

28th April 2022, £10, PB, 62pp, 978-1-913268-27-5

Whatever You've Got is the letter you wish you could send to your younger self. Naylor cuts to the quick of modern anxiety, of love and its many dilemmas, of trauma and recovery, with unfaltering insight and wit. Full of left-hook quips to make you laugh out loud, and joyful, anthemic rhythm.

'Wise, painful, beautiful, redemptive.' Nathan Filer

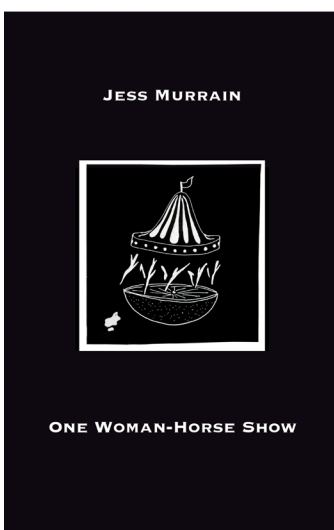


Hex and Other Poems
SHANE MCCRAE

June 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-28-2

The new pamphlet from American poet Shane McCrae, whose books have won the 2018 Anisfield Wolf Book Award for Poetry and been finalists for the National Book Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award and the William Carlos Williams Award. McCrae teaches at Columbia University.

'Shane McCrae is writing the most urgent, electric poems of his generation.' Garth Greenwell



One Woman-Horse Show
JESS MURRAIN

June 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-29-9

One Woman-Horse Show is the debut pamphlet by Ledbury Poetry Competition 2021 Winner, Jess Murrain. Murrain is a poet, actor and co-founder of Theatre with Legs, and a member of the Southbank Centre's New Poets Collective. She won Silver Prize in the 2021 Creative Future Writers' Award.

'Poised and lyrical.' Anthony Anaxagorou on Ledbury winning poem, 'Evolution of a brother gone quiet'

SHAREEN K. MURAYAMA

A JOKE.
SHELTER
ON AN ISLAND
43 MILES WIDE.

I CONFESS:
THERE'S NO
DEFENSE FOR
A BALLISTIC
MISSILE.

HOUSEBREAK



Housebreak
SHAREEN K. MURAYAMA

July 2022, £10, PB, 64pp, 978-1-913268-30-5

Murayama's debut is a book of wild beauty and probing enquiry, asking how we live within perennial emergency, how we explain loss to children, what the wind has in common with hate crime. These heartbreaking poems are full of dance-like grace, and gut punches that send the reader off balance.

'These poems, while haunted by profound loss, careen ceaselessly toward light.' Erin Mizrahi



surrender dorothy
SHANAY NEUSUM-JAMES

August 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-31-2

Shanay Neusum-James explores black British identity, queerness and mental health in her debut pamphlet *surrender dorothy*. Neusum-James is an alumna of the Roundhouse Poetry Collective, Barbican Young Poets and The Obsidian Foundation, and a staff writer at *sweet-thang*.

'she said something short like, thanks or everything is me and i am everything.' *surrender dorothy*

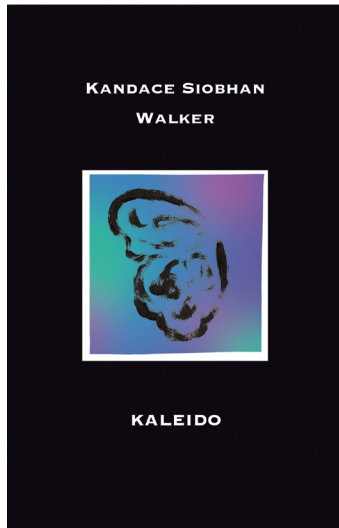


Species
ANJA KONIG

September 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-34-3

Species examines the science of life, love and death with unique wit and insight. Anja Konig's third book, *Species* follows Laurel Prize-longlisted collection *Animal Experiments* (Bad Betty, 2020) and Michael Marks Pamphlet Award-shortlisted *Advice for an Only Child* (flipped eye, 2014).

'Sharp insight, and the blackest, most deadpan humour imaginable. It left me hungry for more.'
The Telegraph on *Animal Experiments*

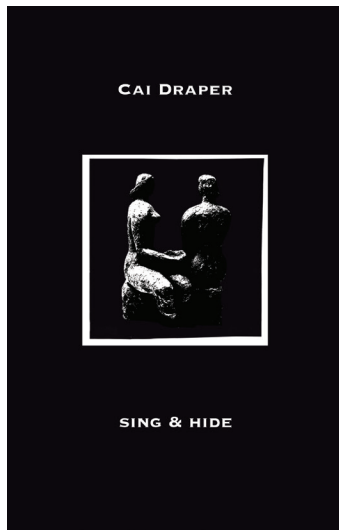


Kaleido
KANDACE SIOBHAN WALKER

October 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-33-6

A series of 22 poems based around the Major Arcana, *Kaleido* is the debut pamphlet from Kandace Siobhan Walker, Winner of The White Review Poet’s Prize 2021, and the Guardian 4th Estate BAME Short Story Prize 2019.

‘Walker’s approach is as improvisationally deft as it is technically assured.’ Kayo Chingonyi



sing & hide
CAI DRAPER

November 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-35-0

sing & hide is a love letter to youth, family and the nuances of belonging, from south London-born, Norwich-based poet, Cai Draper. Draper has a singular voice: bold and experimental, yet full of heart. *sing & hide* follows *SPRUNG* (Broken Sleep) and *Indirect Engagement* (OrangeApple Press).

‘Yeah lesbians raised me in Elephant and Castle...scores of so-called aunties on motorbikes book groups ballroom dancing at the Rivoli.’ *sing & hide*



Lariat
MELISSA LEE-HOUGHTON

November 2022, £6, PB, 978-1-913268-32-9

A new pamphlet by award-winning poet, novelist and essayist, Melissa Lee-Houghton. Lee-Houghton’s books include *Sunshine* (Penned in the Margins, Somerset Maugham Award, Costa and Ted Hughes Award shortlists), *That Lonesome Valley* (Morbid Books) and *The Faithful Look Away* (Rough Trade).

‘The poems, written after two and a half years in psychiatric hospitals, out-Plath Sylvia’
The Guardian on Sunshine

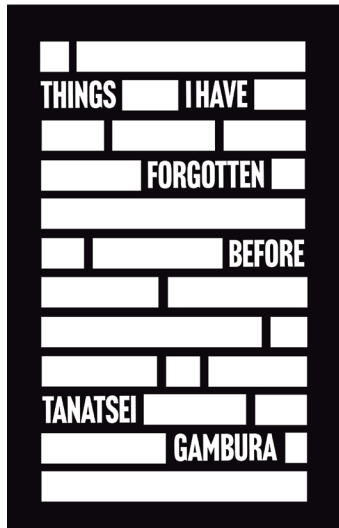
JOSHUA JUDSON

IF POP
PUNK IS ABOUT
LEAVING,
THEN ALL OF US
LISTENING
WERE TRYING TO
ESCAPE THE SAME
PLACE.
THE TOWN OF
THE BODY.

GONGOOZLER

POETRY
BOOK
SOCIETY

PAMPHLET
CHOICE
AUTUMN
2021



Things I Have Forgotten Before
TANATSEI GAMBURA

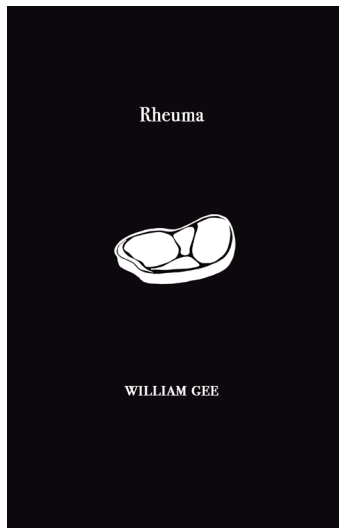
14th May 2021, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-913268-16-9

Brick by brick, Tanatsei Gambura dismantles walls of silence to show us the story behind the story: in a township room in 80s Harare, a street in Bonn, an otherplace locked into grandmothers' hips. Here we confront our collusion in collective forgetfulness, and the painful but necessary process of rememory.

'A calling to a homeland, a calling to the oppressor and a calling to the oppressed.' Courtney Stoddart

POETRY
BOOK
SOCIETY

PAMPHLET
CHOICE
WINTER
2020



Rheuma
William Gee

30th July 2020, £6, PB, 28pp, 978-1-913268-10-7

William Gee's breathtaking, disruptive debut is written in the language of the body. A song from somewhere deep within, *Rheuma* sings of what the body remembers, how it rebels. These are dizzying poems, opening up and obscuring, primal and elusive.

'Gee's poems are slow-burning and lit up immediately—you feel yourself waking up to what a poem can do.' Wayne Holloway-Smith

POETRY
BOOK
SOCIETY

PAMPHLET
CHOICE
WINTER
2019



And They Are Covered in Gold Light
AMY ACRE

25th July 2019, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-9997147-9-6

Amy Acre's second pamphlet reaches both arms out to the wild of being woman, the blood of being mother, the tragedy of being human. From deep within the dark of these poems, there is resolve; there is love; there is light.

'Fizzes with energy, physicality and the levitating openness of song.' Rebecca Tamás

AWARD PICKS



Passerine KIRSTEN LUCKINS

11th February 2021, £10, PB, 90pp, 978-1-913268-13-8

In *Passerine*, Kirsten Luckins' epistolary poems distill the daily process of grieving, healing, remembering, through nature's wild and atomic industry. Linguistically lush, tack-sharp and playful, *Passerine* captures both the contradictions of being in and of the world, and the rare honesty of a true and fierce friendship.

'Elegy to a lost friend and a world disappearing around us—one of the most dazzling collections I've read in a long time.' Claire Trévien

LAUREL PRIZE
LONGLIST
2021



Animal Experiments ANJA KONIG

3rd June 2020, £10, PB, 82pp, 978-1-913268-05-3

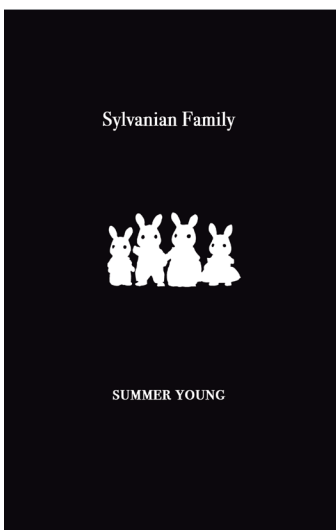
Anja Konig's is a voice we need now more than ever. While the world ends around us daily, these pages offer a macro and micro view, in which we find ourselves both culpable and insignificant, and it is in this paradox that, perhaps, we might be redeemed.

'The antidote we need to the interesting times in which we live.' John Glenday

'Wild and devastating emotional heft.'
Jacqueline Saphra

LAUREL PRIZE
LONGLIST
2021

TELEGRAPH
POETRY
BOOK OF
THE MONTH



Sylvanian Family SUMMER YOUNG

30th July 2020, £6, PB, 34pp, 978-1-913268-11-4

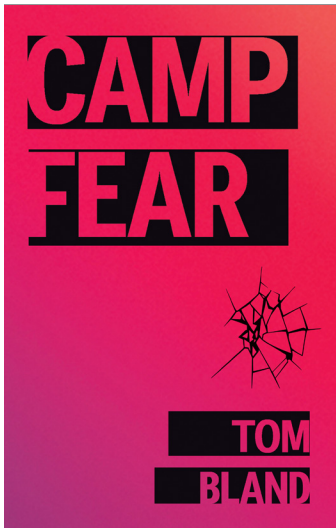
Reading *Summer Young* is like folding yourself into a deceptively miniature world, a cat's eye view of a dystopian Wonderland. Here, the family home encompasses a complex ecosystem of cockroaches and fireflies, mice and sea urchins. Young invokes the visceral candor of Tracey Emin and Sarah Lucas, and confronts trauma with a fierce and virtuosic wit.

'A haunted dollhouse of beautifully crafted humour and pain.' Bobby Parker

BOOKS ARE
MY BAG
READERS'
AWARD
SHORTLIST
2020

SOMEWHERE
BETWEEN
WHERE I AM
AND WHO I WAS,
I DECIDE
TO BE BOTH
LOVED
AND LOVER

THE OPPOSITE OF AN EXODUS

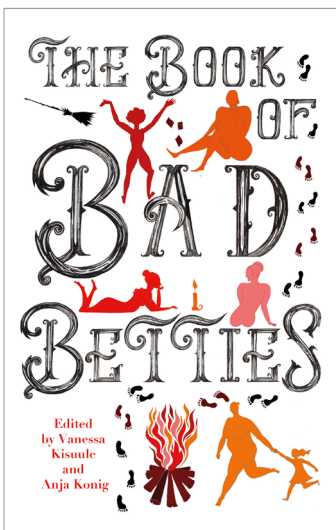


Camp Fear
TOM BLAND

31st October 2021, £10, PB, 144pp, 978-1-913268-20-6

Verse novel, *Camp Fear*, invites the reader to explore the dark corners of the human psyche, challenging the boundaries of contemporary poetics, fusing poetry with satire, surrealism and psychoanalysis. If the id, ego and superego met at a fetish club, it would look something like this.

'A rich contribution to transgressive literature.'
Golnoosh Nour



The Book of Bad Betties
ed. VANESSA KISUULE, ANJA KONIG

22nd September 2021, £10, PB, 84pp, 978-1-913268-23-7

An anthology of new work by 25 poets, curated and introduced by Vanessa Kisuule and Anja Konig. These poems pay tribute to the women who've changed our lives, globally or personally: the fighters, survivors, rebels, queens, bosses, mentors, mothers, lovers and friends.

'An essential addition to the contemporary literary canon.' Joelle Taylor



Gongoozler
JOSHUA JUDSON

24th March 2021, £6, PB, 32pp, 978-1-913268-14-5

Joshua Judson's disarming debut inhabits canal-side twitchels and river-thrashed hills, visiting wards and the Co-op, 'the town of the body'. Judson's poetry is pop punk in all its fierce and fragile beauty, the honesty of a power chord, the way 'an old old song can hit you exactly where you are and fill you with light'.

'Pitch-perfect poems of youth.'
Andrew McMillan

2021

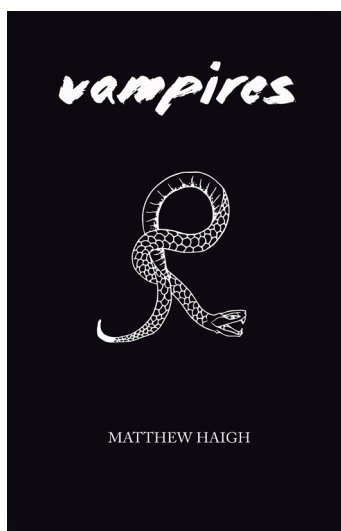


Darling Girl
S. NIROSHINI

14th May 2021, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-913268-17-6

Niroshini's poems live at the intersection of beauty, history and violence, in the wake of colonial and gender-based trauma. We find ourselves on a rooftop in Colombo, in Neruda's latrine, in the waters of the Indian Ocean, and on the battlefield with Kali, imagined as a mother in conversation with her daughter.

'I read Niroshini's work, feeling like I'm centre stage about to watch everything unfold.' Yomi Sode



Vampires
MATTHEW HAIGH

18th November 2021, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-913268-21-3

Matthew Haigh's *Vampires* is devastating both for its dazzling linguistic flair, and its moving central story—an elegy to a lost, beloved aunt. It's a heady read, in which family life bleeds into gothic fantasy, into video games and arcade classics—with their endless potential for death and rebirth.

'Exhilarated and radiant, bold and bereft.'
Stephen Sexton

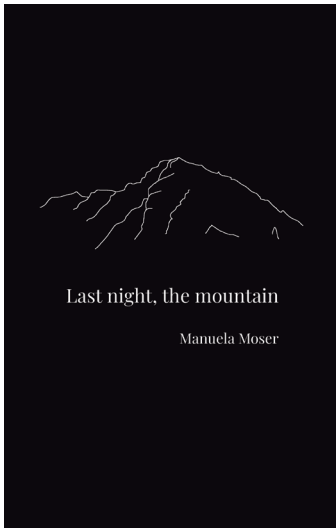


Boi
NICOLA BRAY

14th July 2021, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-913268-18-3

In *Boi*, Nicola Bray recasts gender as poetry, as a grounding, as blurred ink, slippery and fishlike. This speaker reminds us that selfhood is not a mast to which we are tied, but the waves we traverse. The journey here speaks to predecessors, to an ancient story with no archive.

'Taut, complex, nuanced, sometimes achingly surreal, and always beautifully queer.' Richard Scott



Last night, the mountain
MANUELA MOSER

16th December 2021, £6, PB, 30pp, 978-1-913268-22-0

Last night, the mountain is a breathless game of contradictions: part dream, part discourse. Its terrain is an Escheresque tapestry of grey skies, crushed velvet mountains, rescue helicopters, sex tapes and sad swimming pools. This pamphlet hones in on the ways we assimilate phenomena, asking of what, if anything, we can be sure.

'Joyful, eerie and propulsive, wielding a gorgeous musicality.' Susannah Dickey

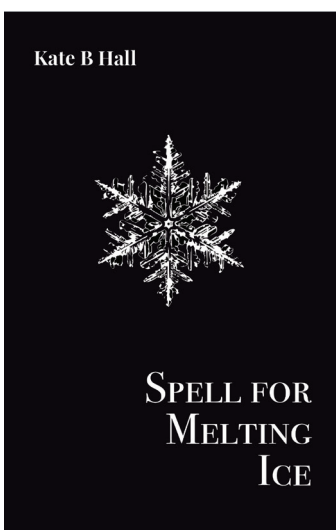


The Opposite of an Exodus
AMARA AMARYAH

24th March 2021, £6, PB, 36pp, 978-1-913268-15-2

Amaryah's debut is a 'backward walk' towards oneself and one's history. A mother and daughter sit down together as children. Second-generation kids 'choose language the way a carpenter chooses tools'. Archival in their various forms, these poems hold dialogue with bell hooks, Jamaica Kincaid and Ntozake Shange.

'Rich with delicately myriad portraits of black girlhood and womanhood.' Victoria Adukwei Bulley



Spell for Melting Ice
KATE B HALL

30th July 2021, £6, PB, 26pp, 978-1-913268-19-0

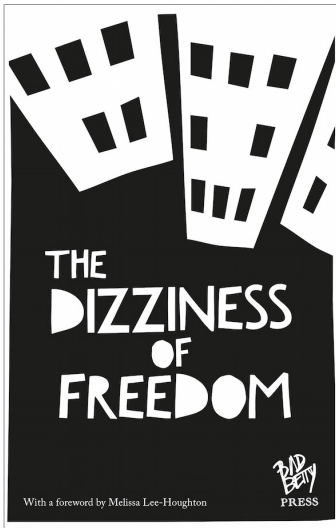
In *Spell for Melting Ice*, Kate B Hall holds a life in the palm of her hand and gives it a shake. For the reader, the sensation is one of being caught in the blizzard, feeling both wonder and disequilibrium. Hall's poems cast light on the troubling and the joyful; they blend myth and reality to forge a reckoning.

'These poetry spells are sparse and fierce, they make compelling reading.' Pauline Sowards

I WANT
THE STORY OF
YOUR
LANGUISHING,
YOUR VOICE IN
THE AIR,
YOUR GASPS IN
THE DARK.

WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT

READER FAVES



The Dizziness of Freedom
ed. AMY ACRE, JAKE WILD HALL

10th September 2018, £12.99, PB, 236pp, 978-1-9997147-4-1

50 contemporary poets speak out about mental health. Contributors include Raymond Antrobus, Mona Arshi, Dean Atta, Rob Auton, Mary Jean Chan, Caleb Femi, Salena Godden, Luke Kennard, Melissa Lee-Houghton, Rachel Long, Roddy Lumsden, Lemn Sissay MBE, Rebecca Tamás and Joelle Taylor.

‘This brilliant, inspiring collection shows us what language is for.’ Darian Leader

TOP
SELLER

LONDON'S
BIG READ
SHORTLIST



While I Yet Live
GBOYEGA ODUBANJO

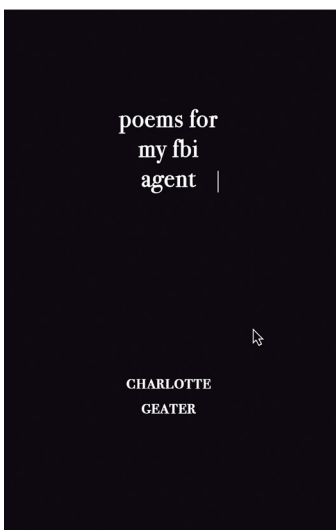
20th February 2019, £6, PB, 32pp, 978-1-9997147-6-5

Odubanjo's voice draws you in, intrinsically contemporary, grounded in something timeless. With an enviable lightness of touch, he explores race, mortality and the fallibility of faith. The poems in *While I Yet Live* beat to a luxurious musicality; prayers and confessions, these are poems to read to yourself aloud.

‘Reader, there has never been a better time to become a Gboyega Odubanjo fan.’ Jeremy Noel-Tod

TOP
SELLER

POETRY
SCHOOL
BOOKS
OF 2019



poems for my FBI agent
CHARLOTTE GEATER

9th March 2020, £6, PB, 34pp, 978-1-913268-06-0

poems for my FBI agent takes us down a Lynchian rabbit hole, a sad, shadowy agent following the poet's every move. Its true surrealism lies in the fidelity with which it depicts how we now live—in a world where we are the warm applause at the end of our own nightly show, the rabid dogs ready to devour one of our own.

‘These poems reassert the dark, personal utterance as a possible escape from places where we are always seen.’ Sam Riviere

TOP
SELLER

BACKLIST

No Weakeners

TIM WELLS
SOLD OUT

The Body You're In

PHOEBE WAGNER
SOLD OUT

In My Arms

SETAREH EBRAHIMI
SOLD OUT

Unremember

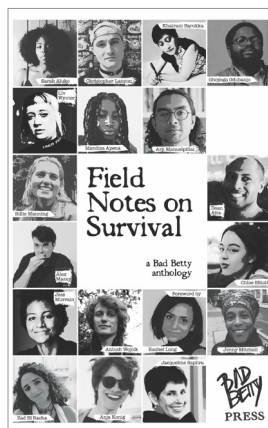
JOELAUTERSON
SOLD OUT

Solomon's World

JAKE WILD HALL
SOLD OUT

The Story Is

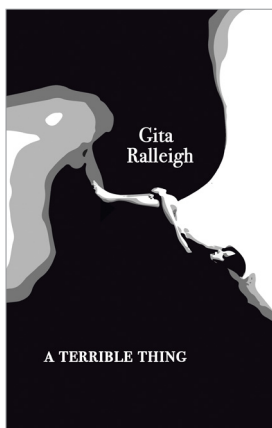
KATE B HALL
SOLD OUT



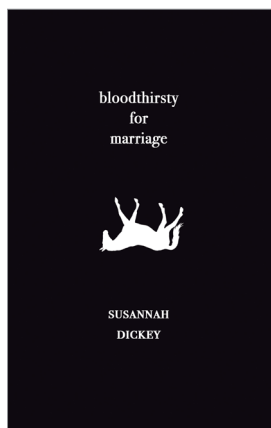
Field Notes on Survival
ed. Amy Acre, Jake Wild Hall
22/09/20, £10, PB, 128pp
978-1-913268-12-1



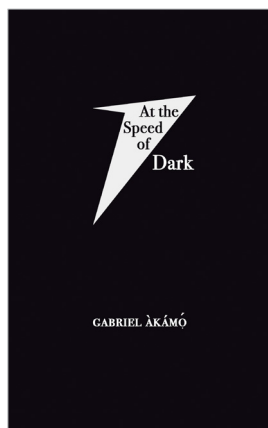
Alter Egos
ed. Amy Acre, Jake Wild Hall
05/09/19, £10, PB, 92pp
978-1-913268-02-2



A Terrible Thing
Gita Ralleigh
22/10/20, £8, PB, 52pp
978-1-913268-09-1



bloodthirsty for marriage
Susannah Dickey
09/03/20, £6, PB, 36pp
978-1-913268-07-7



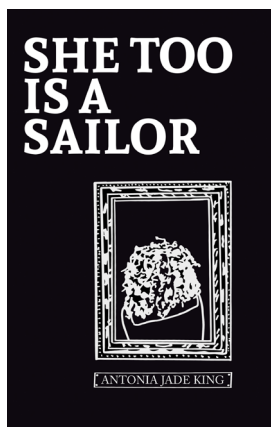
At the Speed of Dark
Gabriel Àkámó
02/05/20, £6, PB, 36pp
978-1-913268-03-9



War Dove
Troy Cabida
02/05/20, £6, PB, 32pp
978-1-913268-08-4



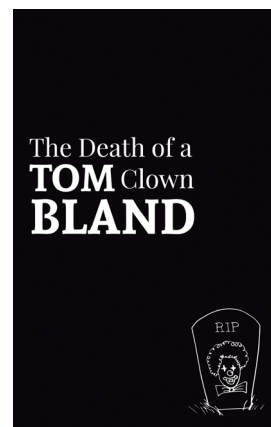
Blank
Jake Wild Hall
25/08/19, £6, PB, 30pp
978-1-913268-00-8



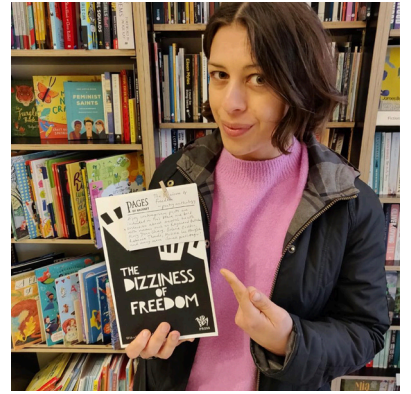
She Too Is a Sailor
Antonia Jade King
24/06/19, £6, PB, 28pp
978-1-9997147-8-9



Raft
Anne Gill
26/04/19, £6, PB, 36pp
978-1-9997147-7-2



The Death of a Clown
Tom Bland
28/11/18, £6, PB, 50pp
978-1-9997147-5-8



THE EPITOME
OF BOLD
INDEPENDENCE,
BAD BETTY
PUBLISHES
BOOKS OF
A RARE BREED.

THE BIG ISSUE

A Poetry Book
Society Pamphlet
Choice

badbettypress.com
info@badbettypress.com

