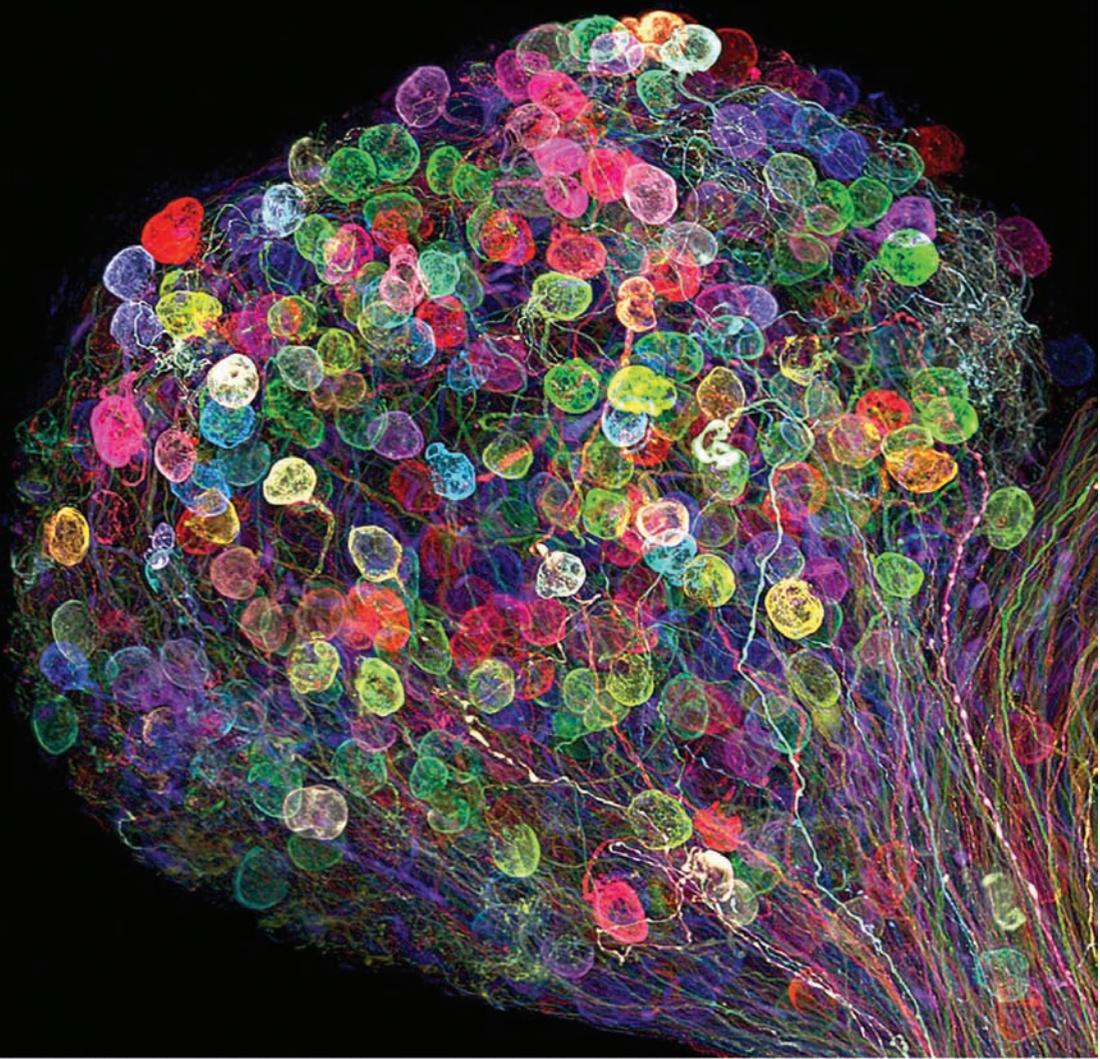


# BLOODAXE BOOKS

## NEW BOOKS 2021

[www.bloodaxebooks.com](http://www.bloodaxebooks.com)





**FEBRUARY 25**  
**FLEUR ADCOCK**  
**The Mermaid's Purse**

Fleur Adcock began writing the poems in this book when she was 82. The two chief settings are New Zealand, with its multi-coloured seas, and Britain, seen in various decades. There are foreign travels, flirtations, family memories, deaths and conversations with the dead. Katherine Mansfield, incognito, dodges an academic conference; there's a lesson in water diving as well as a rather unusual Christmas party. We meet several varieties of small mammal, numerous birds, doomed or otherwise, and some sheep. The book ends with a sequence in memory of her friend, the poet Roy Fisher.

**FLEUR ADCOCK** lives in London. She was presented with the New Zealand Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Poetry 2019 by Jacinda Ardern.

£10.99 paper  
 978 | 78037 570 0  
 80 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World exc NZ

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Poems 1960-2000*  
*Dragon Walk*  
*Glass Wings*  
*The Land Ballot*  
*Hoard*



**FEBRUARY 25**  
**AOIFE LYALL**  
**Mother, Nature**

Aoife Lyall's debut collection explores the tragic and tender experiences of pregnancy and early motherhood, from ante-natal complications and the devastating pain of miscarriage to the overwhelming joy of healthy delivery and healthy infancy.

'There are poems in this collection that knocked me clean to the ground, as others offered me a warm hand up and others still, which stroked my backbone as I sobbed. The subject is crucial, but it's the beauty of the poems which hold it all together. "By law she carries you" is a line that I will never get out of my skin.' — HOLLIE MCNISH

**AOIFE LYALL** was born and raised in Dublin and now lives in the Scottish Highlands. She has been twice shortlisted for the Hennessy New Irish Writing Awards.

£9.95 paper  
 978 | 78037 518 2  
 80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World



**FEBRUARY 25**  
**TIFFANY ATKINSON**  
**Lumen**

*Poetry Book Society Recommendation*

How might poetry help us articulate the body in illness, in work, and in love? Tiffany Atkinson's fourth collection includes her sequence 'Dolorimeter', winner of the 2014 Medicine Unboxed Prize, which takes fragments of speech and found text from a hospital residency to pay homage to the inventiveness and humour of patients and staff in a series of meditations on the notion that pain resists language. Other poems consider the strangeness of the workplace and the embarrassing incursions of desire into everyday life.

**TIFFANY ATKINSON** is Professor in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Her previous collection *So Many Moving Parts* won the Roland Mathias Poetry Award (Wales Book of the Year Awards).

£10.99 paper  
 978 | 78037 530 4  
 80 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Catulla et al*  
*So Many Moving Parts*

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED**



**FEBRUARY 25**  
**SUSAN WICKS**  
**Dear Crane**

A giant crane appears at the back windows of a residential street, its beam swinging freely, its red 'eye' seeming to overlook the lives on the other side of the glass.

In *Dear Crane*, Susan Wicks writes searchingly about our ordinary existence, its serendipities and unreliable sense-impressions, its brief escapes – but this earthbound perspective is also part of an implicit dialogue. Under the crane new buildings spring up, seasons shift, perspective varies, until, its work completed, the giant machine is ready to be driven away. By the time it leaves, the landscape we knew will have changed and we too will have moved on.

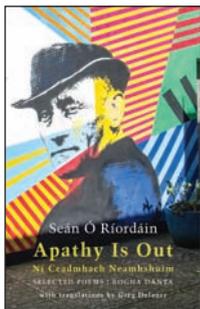
**SUSAN WICKS** is a freelance writer and translator. *Dear Crane* is her eighth poetry collection. She lives in Tunbridge Wells.

£9.95 paper  
 978 | 78037 528 1  
 80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*De-iced; House of Tongues*  
*The Months; Night Toad:*  
*New & Selected Poems*

**PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED**





**MARCH 25**  
**SEÁN Ó RÍORDÁIN**  
**Apathy Is Out**  
**Ní Ceadmhach Neamhshuim**  
**SELECTED POEMS / REGHA DÁNTA**  
 Tr. Greg Delanty

Seán Ó Riordáin (1916-77) was the most important and influential Irish-language poet of modern times. Many his poems came out of his struggle with the isolation, guilt and loneliness of life in mid-century Catholic Ireland he experienced in Cork, the native locale also of the poet Greg Delanty, translator of *Apathy Is Out*.

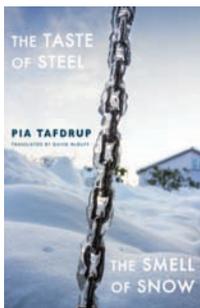
This selection gives a unified sense of Ó Riordáin's work, catching the poetry's verve, playfulness and range and music. It includes the dark, sorrowful poems Ó Riordáin is usually represented with in anthologies as well as lesser-known poems of exuberance and celebration.

£12.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 536 6  
 176 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

IRISH-ENGLISH  
 DUAL LANGUAGE EDITION

Co-published with  
 Cló Iar-Chonnacht

**PREVIOUSLY  
 ANNOUNCED**



**MARCH 25**  
**PIA TAFDRUP**  
**The Taste of Steel •**  
**The Smell of Snow**  
 Tr. David McDuff

Pia Tafdrup is one of Denmark's leading poets. *The Taste of Steel* and *The Smell of Snow* are the first two collections in her new series of books focussing on the human senses. While taste and smell dominate, the poems are equally about the way of the world and the losses that people sustain during the course of their lives – the disappearance of friends and family members, but also the erosion of control of one's own existence. The themes of ecology, war and conflict are never far away and there is a constant recognition of the circular nature of life, the interplay of the generations. Her earlier *Salamander Quartet* is published by Bloodaxe in *Tarkovsky's Horses* and *Salamander Sun*.

£12.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 504 5  
 192 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Queen's Gate*  
*Salamander Sun*  
*Tarkovsky's Horses*

**PREVIOUSLY  
 ANNOUNCED**



**MARCH 25**  
**MARIA STEPANOVA**  
**War of the Beasts**  
**and the Animals**  
 Tr. Sasha Dugdale  
 Poetry Book Society Translation Choice

Maria Stepanova is one of Russia's most innovative and exciting poets and thinkers. This first full English translation of her poetry includes three recent long poems on conflict, 'Spolia' and 'War of the Beasts and the Animals', written during the Donbas conflict, and 'The Body Returns', commemorating the centenary of the First World War. In all three Stepanova's assured and experimental use of form, her modernist appropriation of poetic texts from around the world, and her interweaving of culture, memory and contemporary life, make her work both pleasurable and deeply necessary. Her documentary novel *In Memory of Memory* (tr. Sasha Dugdale) is published by Fitzcarraldo in 2021.

£12 paper  
 978 1 78037 534 2  
 128 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**PREVIOUSLY  
 ANNOUNCED**



**APRIL 15**  
**DOM BURY**  
**Rite of Passage**

Dom Bury's *Rite of Passage* is an initiation into what it means to be alive on the planet in the midst of extinction, of climate, environmental and systematic collapse.

'The astounding poems in Dom Bury's *Rite of Passage* writhe with raw visionary life... They are chants of survival, incantations to bear us safely through climate collapse and mass extinction.' – PASCALE PETIT

'Stark, original, obsessive, and visionary... Imagine a blend of Cormac McCarthy and Louise Glück and you begin to approach an understanding of the frightening desecrations and oracular clarities of this book.' – FIONA BENSON

**DOM BURY** is an environmental activist. He received a Gregory Award in 2016 and won the 2017 National Poetry Competition. *Rite of Passage* is his first collection.

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 549 6  
 80 pages • 234 x 156 mm  
 Rights: World





**APRIL 22**  
**JENNA CLAKE**  
**Museum of Ice Cream**

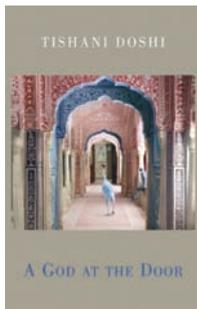
Jenna Clarke's *Museum of Ice Cream* is part simulation, part internal monologue, part attempt to reach out. An uncanny examination of objects, scenes, and flavours, these poems explore how food can connect and divide, can feel isolating and terrifying; what it means to have a secret, to be intimate, to navigate something that should be natural, but feels sickly, sour, and wrong.

'These are poems of such sadness and grace; fear transfigured by a powerful imagination into endlessly explorable terrains. Not so much to guide as to reach out to you in your own maze of confusion, wonder and dread.' – LUKE KENNARD

£9.95 paper  
 978 1 78037 545 8  
 64 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World



**JENNA CLAKE** was shortlisted for a Somerset Maugham Award for her first collection *Fortune Cookie* (2017). She lectures at Teesside University and lives in Newcastle.



**APRIL 22**  
**TISHANI DOSHI**  
**A God at the Door**

An exquisite collection from a poet at the peak of her powers, *A God at the Door* spans time and space, drawing on the extraordinary minutiae of nature and humanity to elevate the marginalised.

'The witty, wise and clear-eyed novelist, dancer and poet deploys both rage and sharp analysis covering issues from the precarious state of the environment to the treatment of women.' – *The Guardian*, '2021 in books'

'Doshi is writing the anthems of her generation.' – SANDEEP PARMAR, *The Guardian*

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 577 9  
 120 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World excluding North America (Copper Canyon Press) & India (HarperCollins India)

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Everything Begins Elsewhere*  
*Girls Are Coming out of the Woods*



**TISHANI DOSHI** is a poet, novelist and dancer of Welsh-Gujarati descent now based in Chennai, India. Her third collection, *Girls Are Coming Out of the Woods* (2018), was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award.



**MAY 3**  
**ANNE CARSON & ROSANNA BRUNO**  
**Trojan Women**  
 a comic

This new comic-book version of Euripides' classic *The Trojan Women* follows the fates of Hekabe, Andromache and Cassandra after Troy has been sacked and all its men killed. *Trojan Women* is a collaboration between visual artist Rosanna Bruno and poet and classicist Anne Carson. Both wacky and devastating, the book shows how human beings are affected by warfare. All the characters take the form of animals (except Cassandra, whose mind is in another world).

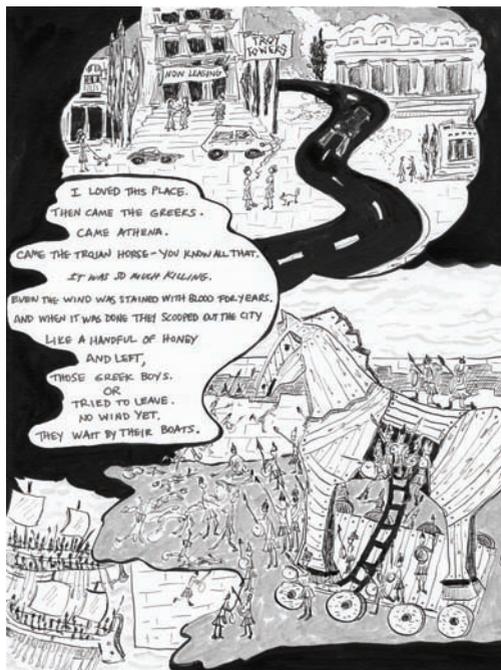
£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 590 8  
 80 pages • 305 x 229 mm  
 Rights: World excluding North America (New Directions)

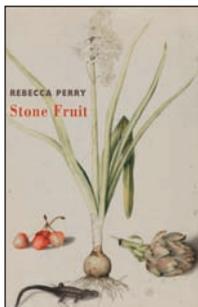
**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Antigonick* (reprinting)



**ANNE CARSON's** collaboration with Bianca Stone, *Antigonick*, was published in 2012.

**ROSANNA BRUNO's** book of cartoons, *The Slanted Life of Emily Dickinson*, came out in 2017.





**MAY 27**  
**REBECCA PERRY**  
**Stone Fruit**

*Poetry Book Society Recommendation*

A collection of three distinct parts, the poems in Rebecca Perry's second collection speak across many common preoccupations: memory, grief, the fallibility of the physical form, our connection to and place in the world, natural and otherwise. Opening with a study of a girl in a miniature portrait, expanding into lyrical prose pieces and closing with a reflective long poem – part elegy and part reflective essay on competitive trampolining – the poems are united by their attention to both the material and inner world.

**REBECCA PERRY** lives in London. Her first collection *Beauty/Beauty* won the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize 2017. It was also shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, Aldeburgh First Collection Prize and Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry Prize.

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 568 7  
 80 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Beauty/Beauty*



**JUNE 24**  
**JOHN CHALLIS**  
**The Resurrectionists**

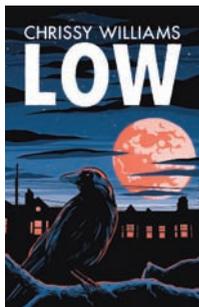
The living and the dead are working side by side in John Challis's dramatic first collection. His poems journey into a buried and sometimes violent landscape to locate the traces of ourselves that remain.

'These poems throw a great arc of light out of the city's storeyed past into the present, place, trades, family.' – IMTIAZ DHARKER

'Entire vanished or vanishing worlds of work – on the East End docks, at Smithfield, in the pre-Murdoch print, at the wheel of a black cab – reveal vivid traffic between the living and the dead... Challis adds new energy to the poetry of history.' – SEAN O'BRIEN

**JOHN CHALLIS** is a research associate at Newcastle University and lives in Whitley Bay.

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 551 9  
 80 pages • 216 x 138 mm  
 Rights: World



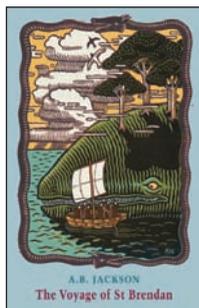
**MAY 27**  
**CHRISSEY WILLIAMS**  
**Low**

This second collection from one of Britain's most innovative poets is an exploration of identity in the face of loss. At its heart is a series of poems about the desolation of miscarriage. These poems try to understand the many different means we use to come closer to articulating, and avoiding, experience. Drawing on the language of comedy, improvisation, drag and clown, *Low* interrogates humour's role in enacting the possibility of change. A thought-provoking, irreverent and challenging book, *Low* exemplifies Chrissy Williams' ability to find 'seriousness in the apparently trivial and ephemeral' (*Poetry Review*).

**CHRISSEY WILLIAMS's** debut *Bear* was one of *The Telegraph's* 50 Best Books of the Year in 2017. She lives in London.

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 564 9  
 72 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Bear*



**JUNE 24**  
**A.B. JACKSON**  
**The Voyage of St Brendan**

A.B. Jackson tells the tale of the legendary seafaring Irish abbot. Brendan is compelled to sail the ocean with a crew of six monks in a leather-skinned curragh; his task, to prove the existence of wonders in the world and create a new book of marvels.

'A swirl of animals and monsters and miraculous things, an amazing sea voyage in the way of Coleridge's *Rime* and Melville's *Moby-Dick*, A.B. Jackson's imaging of Brendan's founding myth is a modern fable of the patron saint of whales.' – PHILIP HOARE

'A feat of seriocomic storytelling ... reflecting obliquely on polar exploration.' – VAHNI CAPILDEO

**A.B. JACKSON** won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection in 2003. Born in Glasgow, he currently lives in Leeds.

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 566 3  
 80 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**With 8 linocuts**  
 by Kathleen Neeley

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*The Wilderness Party*





**JUNE 24**  
**PENELOPE SHUTTLE**  
**Lyonesse**

The submerged land of Lyonesse was once part of Cornwall, according to myth, standing for a lost paradise in Arthurian legend, but becomes an emblem of human frailty in the face of climate change in Penelope Shuttle's new poems.

£12.99 paper  
 978 | 78037 554 0  
 192 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Unsent: New & Selected Poems 1980-2012*  
*Will you walk a little faster?*



This book is two collections in one: the second part, *New Lamps for Old*, is a collection of poems she needed to write in coming up for air from the watery depths of *Lyonesse*, to find meaning in life after losing her husband, the poet Peter Redgrove.

**PENELOPE SHUTTLE** has lived in Cornwall since 1970. Her retrospective, *Unsent: New & Selected Poems 1980-2012*, drew on ten collections published over three decades. This was followed by *Will you walk a little faster?* (2017). She lives in Falmouth.



**SEPTEMBER 16**  
**SELIMA HILL**  
**Men Who Feed Pigeons**

*Men Who Feed Pigeons* brings together seven contrasting but complementary poem sequences relating to men and different kinds of women's relationships with men. *The Anaesthetist* is about men at work; *The Beautiful Man with the Unpronounceable Name* is about someone else's ex-husband; *Billy* relates to friendship between a man and a woman; *Biro* is about living next door to a mysterious uncle; *The Man in the Quilted Dressing-gown* portrays a very particular old man; *Ornamental Lakes as Seen from Trains* is about a woman and a man she's afraid of; while *Shoebill* is another sequence about a woman and a man, but quite different from the others.

£12 paper  
 978 | 78037 586 1  
 160 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

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



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



**SEPTEMBER 16**  
**HANNAH LOWE**  
**The Kids**

Hannah Lowe taught for a decade in an inner-city London sixth form. At the heart of this book of compassionate and energetic sonnets are 'The Kids', her students, the teenagers she nurtured. But the poems go further, meeting her own child self as she comes of age in the 80s and 90s, later bearing witness to her small son learning to negotiate contemporary London.

£10.99 paper  
 978 | 78037 579 3  
 80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Chick*  
*Chan*



'Funny, moving, sometimes painful and always questioning, they capture teachers and their students learning life from each other in profound and unexpected ways. A joy to read.' – LIZ BERRY

**HANNAH LOWE** has published two previous collections with Bloodaxe, *Chick* (2013) and *Chan* (2016). *Chick* won the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize. She lives in London.



**SEPTEMBER 16**  
**STEPHANIE NORGATE**  
**The Conversation**

Stephanie Norgate's *The Conversation* explores relationships between nature and the city, the past and present and character and writer. Shaped through both speech and storytelling, these visual, sensuous and imaginative poems celebrate friendship, even in grief, closeness in times of isolation and lockdown, and the longing to bridge gaps and find cures.

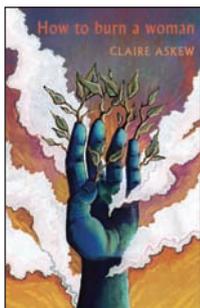
£10.99 paper  
 978 | 78037 574 8  
 64 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Hidden River*  
*The Blue Den*



'The poems in *The Blue Den* possess a brooding, magnetism... The beauty of imagery and rhythm is matched by the subtlety of the poet's thought.'  
 – HELEN DUNMORE

**STEPHANIE NORGATE's** *Hidden River* was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection in 2008, and was followed by *The Blue Den* (2012). She lives in Midhurst in West Sussex.



**OCTOBER 21**  
**CLAIRE ASKEW**  
**How to burn a woman**

Claire Askew's electrifying second collection is an investigation of power: of oppressive systems and their hold over those within them. Firing the imagination, it rewrites narratives of human desire.

'In this book of spells, Askew stirs together smart, modern poems about whisky, heartbreak and male-female relationships with a darker sequence about our "foremothers" who were persecuted as witches. *How to burn a woman* is full of hard-won wisdom and beauty. The vibe is Kim Addonizio joins a coven.' — CLARE POLLARD

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 572 4  
 80 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*This changes things*



Poet and novelist **CLAIRE ASKEW** lives in Edinburgh. Her debut *This changes things* was shortlisted for the Saltire Society First Book of the Year Award, Seamus Heaney Centre Prize and Michael Murphy Memorial Prize.



**OCTOBER 21**  
**GEORGE SZIRTES**  
**Fresh Out of the Sky**

*Fresh Out of the Sky* is a book of songs, dreams, laments, narratives and comedies intertwined with passages about major life changes involving country, identity and belonging. It is about perpetually standing at the edge of change, anticipating it, reflecting on it and dreaming about it.

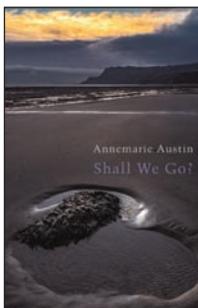
The book's title sequence returns to the *terza rima* theme of memory, recalling to his arrival in England as a child as a refugee from Hungary in 1956. Other poems are set in the aftermath of war and upheaval, as well as addressing life under Covid and difficult questions about residual Jewishness.

£12 paper  
 978 1 78037 584 7  
 160 pages • 234 x 156mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Bad Machine*  
*The Burning of the Books*  
*Mapping the Delta*  
*New & Collected Poems*



**GEORGE SZIRTES** has published numerous books of poetry and translation, including *Reel*, winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize. He lives in Wymondham in Norfolk.



**OCTOBER 21**  
**ANNEMARIE AUSTIN**  
**Shall We Go?**

Annemarie Austin's vividly imaginative poems explore other worlds and other lives, drawing upon her own memories and experiences, as well as on art, travel, dream, myth, history and literature.

'*Track* is a book of many themes and explorations. Again, it reminds us of a poet whose technical control, musicality and gift for subtle surprise deserve wider notice.' — CAROL RUMENS, 'Poem of the the Week', *The Guardian*

'Austin's voice has a shivery intelligence and precision.' — DERYN REES-JONES, *London Magazine*

**ANNEMARIE AUSTIN** lives in Weston-super-Mare. She has published seven other books of poetry including *Very: New & Selected Poems* (2008) and *Track* (2014).

£9.95 paper  
 978 1 78037 553 3  
 72 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Track*  
*Very: New & Selected Poems*



**NOVEMBER 11**  
**ANA BLANDIANA**  
**Five Books**

*Tr. Paul Scott Derrick & Viorica Patea*

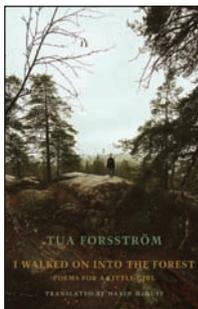
Ana Blandiana is one of Romania's foremost poets, a leading dissident before the fall of Communism. Her numerous international awards include the *Légion d'Honneur* in 2009 and the Griffin Trust Lifetime Recognition Award in 2018.

This new translation combines five of her collections, three of her protest poems from the 1980s followed by her two collections of love poetry, *October*, *November*, *December* and *Variations on a Given Theme* (the latter written after the death of her husband, Romulus Rusan in 2016). The poems of *Predator Star* and *The Architecture of Waves* chronicle a convulsed history and pose the question of how to resist the terror of history, while *Clock without Hours* is concerned with death, salvation and escape from materiality.

£14.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 538 0  
 416 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*My Native Land A4*  
*The Sun of Hereafter* •  
*Ebb of the Senses*





**NOVEMBER 11**  
**TUA FORSSTRÖM**  
**I walked on into the forest**

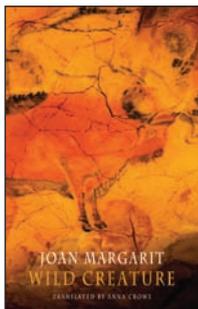
Poems for a little girl  
 Tr. David McDuff

Tua Forsström is a visionary Finland-Swedish poet who has become Finland's most celebrated contemporary poet. Her poetry draws its sonorous and plangent music from the landscapes of Finland, seeking harmony between the troubled human heart and the threatened natural world.

Following *One Evening in October I Rowed Out on the Lake* (2015) and *I studied once at a wonderful faculty* (2006), her new book focuses even more acutely on death and grief, and in particular the devastating loss of her beloved granddaughter. It shows her poetry shifting imperceptibly towards a new and harsh gravity.

£10.99 paper  
 978 1 78037 582 3  
 96 pages • 198 x 129mm  
 Rights: World

SWEDISH-ENGLISH  
 DUAL LANGUAGE EDITION



**NOVEMBER 11**  
**JOAN MARGARIT**  
**Wild Creature**

Tr. Anna Crowe

Catalan poet Joan Margarit is one of Spain's major modern writers. In this final collection he faces the approach of death with courage, humility and even humour. Confronting loss is one of Margarit's enduring themes, and many of these poems do just that but – continuing the theme of his previous collection, *Love Is a Place* – there are even more that celebrate love and everyday domesticity, and he reminds us that love needs to be worked at.

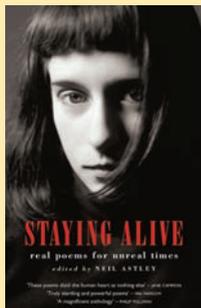
£12 paper  
 978 1 78037 592 2  
 128 pages • 216 x 138mm  
 Rights: World

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**  
*Love Is a Place*  
*Strangely Happy*  
*Tugs in the Fog: Selected Poems*



Joan Margarit was presented with the Miguel de Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honour, by King Felipe VI of Spain in 2020. In 2019 he received the Reina Sofía Prize for Ibero-American Poetry.

**Bloodaxe's Staying Alive anthology series**

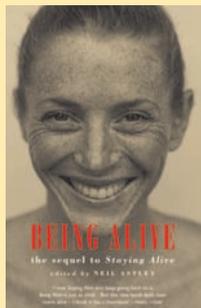


**STAYING ALIVE**  
 real poems for unreal times

'These poems distil the human heart as nothing else...*Staying Alive* celebrates the point of poetry. It's invigorating and makes me proud of being human.'

— JANE CAMPION

2002 978 1 85224 588 7

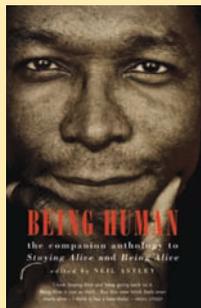


**BEING ALIVE**  
 the sequel to *Staying Alive*

'I love *Staying Alive* and keep going back to it. *Being Alive* is just as vivid...But this new book feels even more alive – I think it has a heartbeat.'

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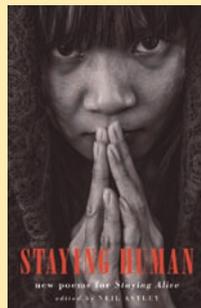


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