

BLOODAXE BOOKS



NEW BOOKS 2026

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FEBRUARY 26
POLLY CLARK
Afterlife
 NEW & SELECTED POEMS

Polly Clark's poetry inhabits a world that is strange, unsettling, and edged with danger. By turns moving and darkly comic, her poems examine the ways we cling to who we were, even as certainty dissolves and the past slips beyond reach. Her retrospective opens with a magical new collection in which there are no physical limits, nothing is stable and the world is distilled to its elements. The poems suggest that we are most real in that mysterious space between living and dying.

POLLY CLARK is an award-winning poet and novelist. Her second collection, *Take Me with You*, a Poetry Book Society Choice, was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. She divides her time between the west of Scotland and a houseboat in London.



£14.99 paper
 978 1 78037 372 0
 208 pages • 234 x 156 mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Farewell My Lovely
Kiss
Take Me with You



FEBRUARY 26
CATHY GALVIN
Ethnology
 A LOVE SONG FOR CONNEMARA

Cathy Galvin's debut *Ethnology* draws on the mystical cry for the dead of her Irish-speaking ancestors. Within an epic narrative she reclaims place, people and language, creating a bridge between our own times and a Connemara community on the margins of Europe, witness to vivid encounters: between the living and the dead and between poets, folklorists and ethnologists who've written about Connemara.

'Here the west of Ireland comes alive, island life and sea-shore culture caught in language and rhythms that are natural to the themes... This is a profound achievement.' — JOHN F. DEANE

CATHY GALVIN received a Heinrich Böll (Achill Island) residency. With roots in Coventry and Connemara, she now lives in Cornwall.

£12.99 paper
 978 1 78037 772 8
 112 pages • 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World



FEBRUARY 26
PENELOPE SHUTTLE
History of the Child

Penelope Shuttle's *History of the Child* is a highly evocative exploration of childhood, memory, and imagination, blending personal and historical perspectives. The book's themes include parenting, grief, nature, psychological crises, trauma, emotional recovery and connections to the past, guided by the idea of childhood as a transformative and rebellious space. As well as memory and imagination, other elements of her *History of the Child* include foreboding, magic, history and humour as Penelope Shuttle seeks to articulate the essence of 'being' through fiery language and elemental imagery.

PENELOPE SHUTTLE has lived in Cornwall since 1970. Her 14 books of poetry include *Redgrove's Wife* (2006), which was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot and Forward Prizes.



£14 paper
 978 1 78037 785 8
 128 pages • 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:

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



MARCH 26
LILY BLACKSELL
Life Immediately

Life Immediately is a pacy, dynamic debut collection containing all the preoccupations of Lily Blacksell's work, from womanhood, to music, to the natural world and our calamitous dealings with it.

'Riotous, creatively quixotic, both funny and deadly serious'
 — RICHARD SCOTT

'*Life Immediately* is the most purely enjoyable collection I have read in years.' — TIMOTHY DONNELLY

'A poetry that's hilarious and complex, witty and wise, understated and extravagant. A rare talent brimming with charm and mischief!' — DALJIT NAGRA

LILY BLACKSELL has published two pamphlets. She organises events at The Conduit and at The Social in London and Glastonbury.

£12.99 paper
 978 1 78037 787 2
 80 pages • 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World





£14.99 paper
978 1 78037 764 3
352 pages • 234 x 156 mm
Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Ireland Is Changing Mother Tonguish



MARCH 26 RITA ANN HIGGINS *Jiving with Wasps*

NEW & SELECTED POEMS

Poetry Book Society Special Commendation

Jiving with Wasps is a new retrospective from Ireland's Rita Ann Higgins drawing on a dozen books of poetry published over four decades, from *Goddess on the Mervue Bus* (1986) to *The Long Weekend* (2024), in addition to new poems appearing here for the first time. These are provocative and heart-warming poems of high jinks and telling social comment by a gutsy, anarchic chronicler of Irish lives and foibles.

Defiantly mischievous, playfully subversive, this irreverent iconoclast has been achieving even wider popularity through her regular appearances on RTE's *Brendan O'Connor Show*: 'Rita Ann Higgins is the people's poet. She's magic. She's a one-off.'

'Silly, funny, and at times deeply discomfiting, these poems use vibrant and buoyant anecdote to invite you in, only to sadden and unsettle you with what might be hiding behind the linguistic misdirection.'

— SUSANNAH DICKEY on *The Long Weekend*

RITA ANN HIGGINS was born in 1955 in Galway, where she still lives. She left school at 14, and was in her late 20s when she started writing poetry.



£12.99 paper
978 1 78037 781 0
80 pages • 234 x 156 mm
Rights: World

MARCH 26 JOHN McCULLOUGH *Crowd Voltage*

John McCullough's fifth collection addresses yearnings for community. It probes fragmentation – disturbances within the body of the crowd and the crowd of the body. Engaging with working-class and queer experiences, the poems move between solitude and togetherness, haunted by ghosts from history as they dream of unity and discover joy in deserted corners.

'Elegant, curious, and surreal, McCullough's poetry invades like moss, making everything alive again. A stunning, vibrant collection from one of the UK's most inventive thinkers. Glorious.' — JOELLE TAYLOR on *Crowd Voltage*

JOHN McCULLOUGH won the Polari First Book Prize. One of his three Penned in the Margins collections was shortlisted for the Costa Poetry Award. He lives in Hove.



£14.99 paper
978 1 78037 822 0
288 pages • 234 x 156 mm
Rights: World

APRIL 10 PETER DIDSBURY *Scenes from a Long Sleep* **NEW & COLLECTED POEMS EXPANDED EDITION**

Published to celebrate his 80th birthday, this expanded edition of Peter Didsbury's *Scenes from a Long Sleep* (2003) includes a later collection, *A Fire Shared* (2020), as well as new poems. Didsbury's staggering powers of invention, outrageous flouting of convention and subversive humour are fully and flagrantly displayed in this new collected edition of the poetry of this 'secular mystic with the lugubrious tongue' (*Independent on Sunday*).

'A sense of adventure hardly to be paralleled in contemporary poetry'
— SEAN O'BRIEN, *London Magazine*

PETER DIDSBURY lives in Hull where he worked as an archaeologist.



No One Mentioned the Roofer

We met the Minister,
we gave him buns, we admired his suit.
The band played, we all clapped.

No one mentioned the roofer;
whose overtime was cut
whose under time was cut
whose fringe was cut
whose shoelaces were cut
whose job was lost.

We searched for his job
but it had disappeared.
One of us should have said:

Hey Minister, we like your suit
have a bun, where are our jobs?
But there was no point,
he was here on a bun eating session
not a job finding session.

His hands were tied.
His tongue a marshmallow.

RITA ANN HIGGINS
FROM *Jiving with Wasps*



£12.99 paper
978 1 78037 789 6
96 pages • 234 x 156mm
Rights: World exc India & North America

ALSO AVAILABLE:

A God at the Door
Everything Begins Elsewhere
Girls Are Coming Out of the Woods



MAY 21
TISHANI DOSHI
Egrets, While War

The poems in Tishani Doshi's fifth collection navigate the deep entanglements between environmental loss, ancestral memory, the slow transformations of ageing, and the devastations of war. Birds appear throughout these pages, not simply as subjects but as symbols and messengers, witnesses to war, extinction and exile. Here, love and desire emerge not as consolation but as a form of radical presence. With lyric clarity and a gaze both wide and precise, *Egrets, While War* becomes a meditation on survival – of species, of history, of the heart.

TISHANI DOSHI is a poet and dancer from India who spent part of her childhood in Wales. Her previous collection *A God at the Door* (2021) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize while *Girls Are Coming Out of the Woods* (2018) was shortlisted for the Ted Hughes Award.



£14.99 paper
978 1 78037 791 9
352 pages • 216 x 138mm
Rights: World exc North America

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Incendiary Art



MAY 21
PATRICIA SMITH
The Intentions of Thunder
NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

Longlisted for the National Book Award for Poetry 2025

America's Patricia Smith is one of the most indispensable, groundbreaking voices in contemporary poetry. *The Intentions of Thunder* gathers, for the first time, the essential work from across her career. With impassioned eloquence and a sharpened focus on incidents of national mayhem and mourning, these poems traverse the redeeming landscape of pain, confronting the frightening revelations of history.

'Patricia Smith is the greatest living poet. Every book is better than the last.' – DANEZ SMITH, *The Guardian*

PATRICIA SMITH won America's National Poetry Slam four times, the most in its history, and is a professor at Princeton University.

Egrets, While War

In the garden, egrets are doing their stalking dance, and it's easy to see how they are really feathered dinosaurs flown in through a hole from the past. Somewhere, a city under siege remains sleepless. The dirge of *loss recovery loss loss loss* continues. I cannot say why other people's family portraits fill me with such tectonic longing. Ancestors who stepped from ocean to land, shedding fin, tail, gill, to transform into a symphony of great-aunts and uncles. We bury clues of our dispossession—bony-plated language, heart scarab. Our task is to march on. To rise and leave the apple orchard, throw stones at marauders who threaten to tear up the carpets. Father will file a missing person report while spring carries on with its hedonism. It is pointless to resist the pull of our fruiting bodies. Whatever we fear has already happened. Will keep happening. If we could just wake to fullness in a delta with the berry-red lips of an amorous god upon us. Climb trees to listen to heartbeats. But here, the earth remains leashed to mystery—clay fingerprint, fragment of jaw. The sea retracts her tongue like a warning. Winged creatures lurch and soar. Whiteness, then vanishing.

TISHANI DOSHI
FROM *Egrets, While War*

In His Room. With Him Gone.

She walks into her son's room without knocking, more a voyeur than a nurturer, and is knocked back by the rancid air that says *man*. Again she is surrounded by the remnants of a life lived desperately—seven baseball caps sporting the insignia of the moment, crumpled fast food bags, foil packets ripped of their rubbers, posters of snarling rappers with guns in their hands and ice in their names. She can still smell her son, the deep musky growl of him, even though he is miles away, anxious, shackled. The phone rings, and it is another child with a mustache and a roar in his throat. She pictures him on all fours, snarling, the receiver in his teeth, sniffing the air for her son's blood.

PATRICIA SMITH
FROM *The Intentions of Thunder*



MAY 21
JENNIFER LEE TSAI
Melete

Jennifer Lee Tsai's first full-length collection – named after the Muse of meditation – explores family history, intergenerational trauma, love, loss and belonging through the perspective of a second-generation British Chinese identity.

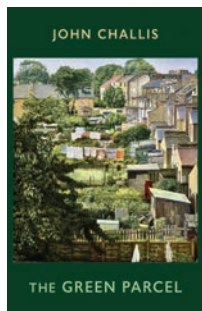
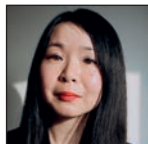
'These extraordinary poems... speak powerfully against exoticism, stereotyping, and the manifold forms of racism experienced by the Chinese in Britain.' – HANNAH LOWE

'Powerful and distinct, Jennifer's poems weave historical and personal trauma into a vivid, striking exploration of family, heritage, and personhood.'

– ROMALYN ANTE

JENNIFER LEE TSAI was born and raised on Merseyside. She is a fellow of The Complete Works and a Ledbury Poetry Critic.

£14 paper
 978 1 78037 757 5
 144 pages • 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World



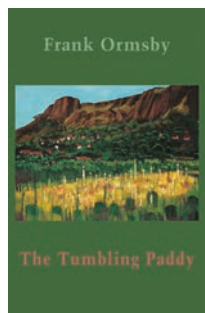
JUNE 25
JOHN CHALLIS
The Green Parcel

The rural terrain of John Challis's second collection provides a new lens for exploring history, class and work, our relationship to the natural world, and cycles of growth and decay. Much of his debut *The Resurrectionists* concerned working lives in the city: his father a London cabbie, his grandfather a market porter. Here his focus shifts to a crumbling stately home in Northumberland. London is at a distance. We find ourselves beyond, in backyards, on motorways, in fields, searching for the green patch in Kent, where an East End family picked hops in the summer.

£12.99 paper
 978 1 78037 769 8
 80 pages • 216 x 138mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:
The Resurrectionists

JOHN CHALLIS worked as a researcher at Newcastle University, and now teaches at York St John University. He lives in York. His debut *The Resurrectionists* was published by Bloodaxe in 2021.



JUNE 25
FRANK ORMSBY
The Tumbling Paddy

Frank Ormsby's eighth collection is, on the whole, a playful book which constantly surprises us with serious themes, including life with Parkinson's Disease. History is the word and history the image, whether as in a dream about Auschwitz or a portrait of the History Club on its annual outing.

'Wise and vulnerable, this poet courageously scans the horizons presented by illness and death. Love poet as well as elegist, he embraces heartbreak and gladness. Its depth of thought and emotion gives *The Tumbling Paddy* a sense of resurrection.' – MICHAEL LONGLEY

FRANK ORMSBY was editor of *The Honest Ulsterman* from 1969 to 1989, and was Ireland's Professor of Poetry in 2019-22. He lives in Belfast.

£12.99 paper
 978 1 78037 793 3
 80 pages • 216 x 138 mm
 Rights: World exc North America

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Goat's Milk: New & Selected Poems
The Darkness of Snow
The Rain Barrel



JUNE 25
LAWRENCE SAIL
Double Takes

Twinning is well embedded in Lawrence Sail's family: himself the son of a twin, he also has a twin sister and – youngest of his four children – twin daughters. His 14th collection's title *Double Takes* reflects the poems' central concern with many aspects of duality – whether manifested in the context of human relations, translations, 'the moment saved from time' or the touchstone of mortality. In some instances, juxtapositions and counterpoints bring affinities to light; in others, distance and difference.

LAWRENCE SAIL published his retrospective *Waking Dreams: New & Selected Poems* with Bloodaxe in 2010. His later collections are *The Quick* (2015) and *Guises* (2020). He lives in Exeter.

£12.99 paper
 978 1 78037 794 0
 80 pages • 216 x 138mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Guises
The Quick
Waking Dreams: New & Selected Poems

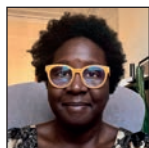




£12.99 paper • 80 pages
978 1 78037 774 2
234 x 156mm
Rights: World

SEPTEMBER 24
CLEMENTINE EWOKOLO BURNLEY
Belling the Leopard
James Berry Poetry Prize 2024

In her debut collection, Clementine Ewokolo Burnley asks what remains after once-familiar places and people have gone. The poems criss-cross the Atlantic, beginning in the 1850s. The voices of Caribbean returnees to the west African coast mingle with those of west African captives, German missionaries, and kidnappers. The collection addresses the past to illuminate what people can become to each other in the present. Weary of searching outward, women drop anchor in themselves.



CLEMENTINE EWOKOLO BURNLEY grew up in Cameroon and has lived between Scotland, Italy and Germany for forty years. Her pamphlet *Radical Pairings* (2023) was short-listed for the Michael Marks Poetry Award. She lives in Edinburgh.



£12.99 paper • 80 pages
978 1 78037 778 0
234 x 156mm
Rights: World

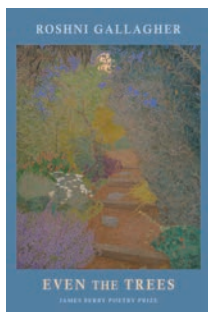
SEPTEMBER 24
NADINE EL-ENANY
Pelican Daughter
James Berry Poetry Prize 2024

The poems of Nadine El-Enany's debut collection are imbued with tenderness and fuelled by a hunger for justice, connection and a more empathic world. With stunning lyricism she fiercely probes the pain of being powerless in the face of global catastrophes – genocide, climate crisis – without tilting into despair.

'A bracing social consciousness melds with a lyric transparency that make these poems supple enough to startle readers to that place where "only new things happen"' – MAJOR JACKSON



NADINE EL-ENANY won the Newcastle University Chancellor's Poetry Prize in 2024. She is Professor of Law at Kent Law School, and was previously Reader in Law at Birkbeck College. She lives in London.



£12.99 paper • 80 pages
978 1 78037 776 6
234 x 156mm
Rights: World

SEPTEMBER 24
ROSHNI GALLAGHER
Even the Trees
James Berry Poetry Prize 2024

Roshni Gallagher asks what can be seen, named, or remembered in her debut collection. From Scotland to Guyana, the poems explore the porous boundary between past and present, and how ecological landscapes and landscapes of the mind and body are permanently altered by migration and memory.

'Intelligent, searching, and beautifully written...an exceptional debut collection, full of enviable phrasing and insight.' – KAREN SOLIE

'Poignant, exquisite and haunting... so visceral, so perceptive, so adept.' – PATIENCE AGBABI

ROSHNI GALLAGHER is a poet and librarian from Leeds of mixed Indo-Guyanese and Irish heritage, winner of an Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award. She lives in Edinburgh.



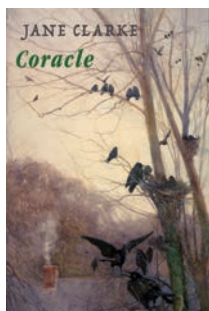
JAMES BERRY POETRY PRIZE

Run in partnership with Newcastle University since 2021, the James Berry Poetry Prize is Britain's only poetry prize offering both expert mentoring and first book publication (by Bloodaxe) for young or emerging poets of colour. The 2024 James Berry Poetry Prize was judged by Neil Astley, Imtiaz Dharker, Major Jackson, Theresa Muñoz and Nathalie Teitler, and with Patience AGBabi, Karen McCarthy Woolf and Jacob Sam-La Rose as mentors. The three equal winners were Clementine Ewokolo Burnley, Nadine El-Enany and Roshni Gallagher.

SEPTEMBER 24
Winner of the Mslexia Women's Poetry Pamphlet Competition 2025

The Mslexia competition has been judged by Imtiaz Dharker for the first four years of its partnership with Bloodaxe. Courtney Conrad's *I Am Evidence* (2023) won the 2022 competition plus the Michael Marks Poetry Award. Nia Broomhall's debut pamphlet *Backalong* (2024) was the 2023 winner, while Emilie Jelinek's second pamphlet *The Sky Around My Father* (2025) won the 2024 competition. The 2025 winner will be announced in the June 2026 issue of Mslexia ahead of its publication by Bloodaxe in September 2026.

£7.50 pamphlet • 978 1 78037 795 7 • 32 pages
210 x 140mm • Rights: World



£14 paper • 112 pages
978 1 78037 796 4
234 x 156mm
Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:

A Change in the Air
The River
When the Tree Falls



OCTOBER 22

JANE CLARKE

Coracle

Jane Clarke's *Coracle* explores what it means to care for each other and the natural world in the midst of social and environmental jeopardy. With a timeless lyricism her poems attend to lives, language and landscape. Her finely observed, distilled and intimate poems reflect on our kinship with all living things. The coracle, a small, simple boat used from antiquity to the present day symbolises our shared vulnerability and resilience. Heart-stirring and wise, this collection – her fourth – faces the reality of loss while celebrating acts of restoration that inspire hope.

JANE CLARKE's *A Change in the Air* (2023) was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, Forward Prize and Farmgate Café National Poetry Award, as well as being longlisted for the Laurel Prize. She lives in Glenmalur, Co. Wicklow.

OCTOBER 22

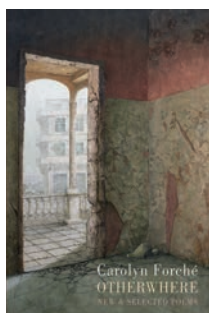
CAROLYN FORCHÉ

Otherwhere

NEW & SELECTED POEMS

Carolyn Forché is one of America's most important contemporary poets – renowned as a 'poet of witness' – as well as an indefatigable human rights activist. Her retrospective, *Otherwhere*, is published fifty years after her debut, *Gathering the Tribes*, winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award in 1975. It includes selections from that book and from four subsequent books published by Bloodaxe in the UK, plus new poems. In an introductory essay, *Older Than Glass, Younger Than Music: a poetics*, she relates her life and times to her development as a poet and thinker, tracing the shifts in her poetry across her five collections.

CAROLYN FORCHÉ is Professor of English and Director of Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice at Georgetown University.



£14.99 paper • 272 pages
978 1 78037 818 3
234 x 156mm
Rights: World
exc North America

ALSO AVAILABLE:

Blue Hour
In the Lateness of the World
The Angel of History
The Country Between Us



Coracle

The mottled-brown blackbird
will not let the wind distract her –

she's gathering moss, roots, twigs,
ribs of bark and tattered leaves.

She lifts a scrap of baling twine,
bright blue in her yellow-brown beak,

weaves it into the bowl
hidden low in the hawthorn hedge.

She plasters her nest
with muck from the sheep shed,

then moulds it around her body
till it's robust as wattle and daub.

There will come magpies, foxes,
badgers, stoats. And still

she lays her heart in the basket-boat.

JANE CLARKE
FROM *Coracle*

Translation

(for Daniel)

In a café near the entrance to the catacombs
you wrote your English versions of poems
composed in the voice of a thrush in a cage:
winter trees, plane trees, iron benches, bocci in snow.
This is where I found you most afternoons:
cigarette lit, stack of books, folded up *Le Monde*,
writing into the past with your oldest pen,
unraveling your script then rolling it up again,
music turned back into ink on paper,
a symphony on the table face-down.
I was a young mother pushing a carriage then,
the little one trying to free himself (as he now has done),
while behind the glass door of an armoire
armies of paper soldiers fought,
bells ringing like stones through the clouds,
an army of graves upright. How to be still
as you were, to keep quiet as one language
enters another? Leaving all usual worlds behind.
Because fog is not the same as violin! Fog is flute.
And violin is maple, spruce and willow singing.
You wrote like a mole in its tunnel dreaming of stars.

CAROLYN FORCHÉ
FROM *Otherwhere*



OCTOBER 22
CHASE TWICHELL
Things as It Is |
The World It Was

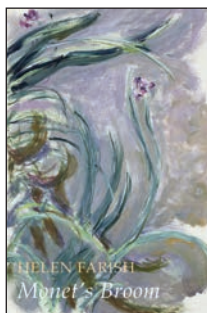
Tell the truth. No decoration. Remember death. These are the demands Chase Twichell has made of her poems for over half a century. One of America's most prominent poets and a longtime student of Zen Buddhism, she seeks to perceive what Shunryu Suzuki called *things-as-it-is*. These two books, published here in tandem, confront fundamental questions about the nature of the self: childhood trauma, the fate of a damaged planet, marriage and widowhood.

£14.99 paper • 192 pages
 978 | 78037 798 8
 192 pages
 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World exc North America

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Horses Where the Answers Should Have Been



CHASE TWICHELL grew up in Connecticut and the Adirondack Mountains. This early intimacy with wilderness was followed by her years at Zen Mountain Monastery in the Catskills.



NOVEMBER 19
HELEN FARISH
Monet's Broom

£12.99 paper • 80 pages
 978 | 78037 802 2
 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:
Nocturnes at Nohant
The Dog of Memory
The Penny Dropping



HELEN FARISH lives in Cumbria. Two of her four poetry collections were shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, including *The Penny Dropping* (2024).



NOVEMBER 19
MAITREYABANDHU
A Commonplace Book

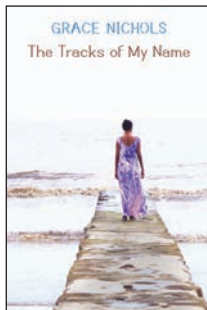
In a commonplace book, you'd write a recipe, copy a proverb, jot down housekeeping advice, making a precious object out of ordinary things. Maitreyabandhu's *Commonplace Book*, his first book-length poem, follows a year from the death of his Buddhist teacher while he navigates his own spiritual life and smarts at lost love. Part epyllion, part diary, it mingles tradition with innovation, comedy with tragedy, traversing the bardo between this life and the next.

£12.99 paper • 96 pages
 978 | 78037 800 8
 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:
After Cézanne
The Crumb Road
Yarn



MAITREYABANDHU is a Buddhist teacher and writer. His first book-length collection, *The Crumb Road* (2013), was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, and was followed by *Yarn* (2015) and *After Cézanne* (2019). He lives and works at the London Buddhist Centre.



NOVEMBER 19
GRACE NICHOLS
The Tracks of My Name

£12.99 paper • 80 pages
 978 | 78037 755 1
 234 x 156mm
 Rights: World

ALSO AVAILABLE:
I Have Crossed an Ocean
Passport to Here and There
Picasso, I Want My Face Back
The Insomnia Poems



The Tracks of My Name sees Grace Nichols embarking on a journey across the English countryside to the small Buckinghamshire town of Olney, where one-time English slave-trader (later abolitionist) John Newton lived and wrote his famous hymn, *Amazing Grace*. Two centuries later, in Guyana, her Methodist parents named her Grace Olney after both hymn and place. Her book lyrically and imaginatively explores the relationship between memory and history, conscience and greed, a sense of place and love of landscape.

GRACE NICHOLS was born in Guyana and has lived in Britain since 1977. She was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry for 2021. She lives in Sussex.