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SPRING 2024

FEATURING

BARBARA BLACK

PAMELA PORTER

NORAH BOWMAN

LITTLE FORTIFIED STORIES

BY BARBARA BLACK

AWARD-WINNING FLASH FICTION WRITER
BARBARA BLACK RETURNS WITH A NEW
COLLECTION OF STORIES FILLED WITH
WIT, WONDER AND WEIRDNESS

A spinster in love with a tobacco-smoking ghost. A lonely one-eyed monster who wanders the desert. A Medieval saint who delights in her “miraculous ruine.” In *Little Fortified Stories*, award-winning writer Barbara Black conjures a microcosm of characters that defy convention. In these very short stories, curious worlds are encapsulated like a series of snow globes, swirling with deep emotion and teeming with strangeness. Inspired by art, music, alcoholic spirits, and what Black calls “authentic fabrications” from her own ancestry, these eclectic tales are told with an eye to the absurd. Buzzing with hypnotic intensity, *Little Fortified Stories* presents a world in which everything is theatre and the regular rules don’t apply.

Barbara Black writes short and flash fiction, poetry and libretti. Black’s writing appears in *The Cincinnati Review*, *Geist*, *The Hong Kong Review*, *Prairie Fire*, and *CV2*, and in anthologies, including *Bath Flash Fiction Award 2021*; and *Hologram: Homage to P.K. Page*. Achievements include: Fiction Finalist, 2020 National Magazine Awards; Nominated for the 2019 Writers’ Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize; Winner, 2017 Writers’ Union of Canada Short Prose Competition; Winner, Federation of BC Writers Contests (Prose Poem) 2018 and (Flash Fiction) 2021/2022; and Shortlisted for the 2023 Edinburgh Flash Fiction Award. She recently won first prize in The Plaza Prizes Microfiction Contest 2023 and also placed second in the Flash Fiction Category. She is the author of *Music from a Strange Planet* (Caitlin Press, 2021), which was the winner of the 2023 Sunshine Coast Writers and Editors Society Award for Fiction, and a finalist for the 2023 International Book Awards, the 2023 Canadian Book Club Award and the 2021 *Miramichi Reader’s Very Best Book Awards*. She lives in Victoria, BC, where she gardens and rides her trusty Triumph motorcycle.



SHORT FICTION / MICROFICTION

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\$23.00 CAD

Available May 17, 2024

ALSO BY BARBARA BLACK

Music from a Strange Planet

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SELECT AWARDS

- ✦ Winner, Sunshine Coast Writers & Editors Society Award for Fiction
- ✦ Winner, IndieReader Discovery Award for Short Stories/Fiction
- ✦ Winner, The Wishing Shelf Book Award for Adult Fiction

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WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

BETWEEN THE BELL STRUCK AND THE SILENCE

BY PAMELA PORTER



POETRY

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5.5" x 8", paperback

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ADVANCE PRAISE

"*Between the Bell Struck and the Silence* echoes with hope for the lost and suffering: how art heals, a secret that Van Gogh knew and used in his painting landscapes as if his soul were included in those nervous, heartfelt strokes of his existence. These are finely crafted poems. Pamela Porter addresses our residence here on earth; standing alone in a field and contemplating the stars in their luminous exaggeration above, our troubled gaze often rejoices."

—Russell Thorburn, author of *Somewhere We'll Leave the World*

PAMELA PORTER'S LATEST POETIC OFFERING
IS AN ELEGIAC TRIBUTE TO THE
GIFTS OF ART AND POETRY

How does the rain sleep and where does the silence go? In her latest book of poetry, *Between the Bell Struck and the Silence*, Governor-General-Award-winning Pamela Porter contemplates the mysteries of existence. Porter skillfully reimagines familiar emotions: joy, loss, and healing are made new through descriptions of the flight of music, the spirits that dance between dusk and dawn, the blessings of coyotes and chickadees. Themes of Christian theology and the life and work of Van Gogh are woven throughout this rich tapestry of philosophical exploration and the healing powers of art.

Between the Bell Struck and the Silence is a profound offering that delves into the essence of what it means to be an artist and to experience the striking state of being alive, with all of its joys and sorrows. With this introspective collection, Porter invites a generous appreciation for the world and life itself.

Pamela Porter is the author of fourteen published books: eleven volumes of poetry and four books for children and young adults, including two novels in free verse. Her work has garnered numerous awards, including the Governor General's Award and first prizes from the Canadian Author's Association, the *Malahat Review*, the Gwendolyn MacEwen Prize, *Freefall Magazine*, *PRISM international*, *Vallum* magazine, and others.

WHERE URBAN MEETS RURAL

MY EYES ARE FUSES

BY NORAH BOWMAN

WITH VIVID IMAGERY AND STRIKING ALLUSIONS, *MY EYES ARE FUSES* IS FEMINIST MYTHOLOGY BROUGHT TO LIFE

Weaving together a modern retelling of Roman Empress Agrippina the Elder, a künstlerroman-inspired exploration of French sculptor Niki de Saint Phalle, and the contemporary portrait of an unhappily married mother, Bowman's *My Eyes are Fuses* is a bold exploration of tensions between freedom of art and the constraints of gender. Spanning centuries, these poems offer enchantments and antidotes, extract the poison from moments of pain, distil it down to a sweet elixir. Here, women are animals, witches, artists, rebels, imagined beyond their accomplishments, drawn together through time. With careful form, Bowman conjures a new chronicle for these women as time travellers, shapeshifters, goddesses akin to the three Fates, powerful beyond what their moments in time allowed of them.

Norah Bowman lives on Unceded Syilx Okanagan territory, home to ponderosa pines and bunchgrass. Norah is a poet, artist, and feminist writer whose interests include art, feminist movements around the world, equity for all, and protection of the earth. She is the author of *Amplify! A Graphic Novel of Feminist Resistance* (University of Toronto Press, 2019) and *Breath, Like Water: An Anticolonial Romance* (Caitlin Press, 2021).



POETRY

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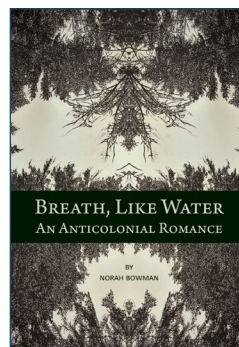
\$20.00 CAD

Available May 3, 2024

ALSO BY NORAH BOWMAN

Breath, Like Water

978-1-77386-065-7



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