

# The Collected Poetry of Carol Shields

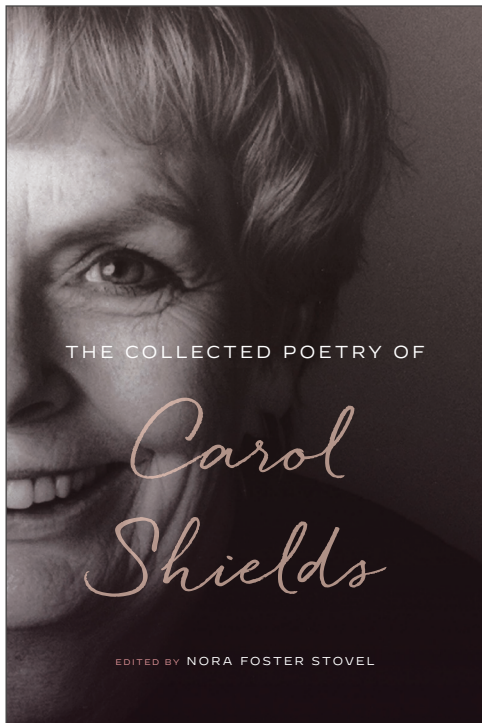
Edited by Nora Foster Stovel, Foreword by Jan Zwicky



a critical edition of over 240 poems by Carol Shields.

"The Collected Poetry of Carol Shields will send Shields's followers back to her novels with a new understanding of their metaphoric and imagistic richness. Scholars and those familiar with her work will be grateful that the book has awakened them to another side of a writer of such renown." –Lorna Crozier, University of Victoria and author of *Through the Garden: A Love Story (with Cats)*

"The poems in this book are witty, sparked by Shields's signature interests in gender, class, and the frames of subjectivity; they are smartly formal and, like her novels, often subversively feminist. It is intriguing to see the kind of breadth that Shields brought to multiple projects throughout her poetic practice and this book has the ring of a well-kept secret." –Tanis MacDonald, Wilfrid Laurier University and author of *Mobile*



Carol Shields, best known for her fiction writing, received both the Pulitzer Prize and the Governor General's Award for Fiction for her novel *The Stone Diaries*. But she also wrote hundreds of poems over the span of her career.

*The Collected Poetry of Carol Shields* includes three previously published collections and over eighty unpublished poems, ranging from the early 1970s to Shields's death in 2003. In a detailed introduction and commentary, Nora Foster Stovel contextualizes these poems against the background of Shields's life and oeuvre and the traditions of twentieth-century poetry. She demonstrates how poetry influenced and informed Shields's novels; many of the poems, which constitute miniature narratives, illuminate Shields's fiction and serve as the testing ground for metaphors she later employed in her prose works. Stovel delineates Shields's career-long interest in character and setting, gender and class, self and other, actuality and numinousness, as well as revealing her subversive feminism, which became explicit in Reta Winter's angry (unsent) letters in *Unless* and in the stories of poet Mary Swann and Daisy Goodwill in *Swann* and *The Stone Diaries*.

The first complete collection of her poetry, this volume is essential for all readers of Carol Shields. Stovel's detailed annotations, based on research in the Carol Shields fonds at Library and Archives Canada, reveal the poems in all their depth and resonance, and the dignity and consequence they afford to ordinary people.

**Carol Shields** (1935-2003) was an American-born Canadian award-winning novelist, short story writer, essayist, playwright, and poet.

**Nora Foster Stovel** is professor emerita, University of Alberta, and the author and editor of several books including *Divining Margaret Laurence* and *Recognition and Revelation: Margaret Laurence's Short Nonfiction Writings*.

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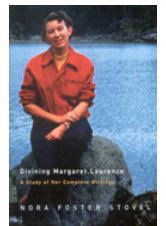


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