



BOOK RELEASE

Tacoma Narrows
Mitchell Parry

Poetry
ISBN 0-86492-450-X
EAN 9 780864 924506
\$17.95 CDN / \$14.95 US / 5.5 x 8.5 pb
Pub date: 10 March 2006 CDN / 14 April 2006 US

“There’s so much to admire in *Tacoma Narrows*, from its lovely cadence to its bittersweet honesty. These are poems that were lived and loved before being written.”

— Barry Dempster

In *Tacoma Narrows*, Mitchell Parry reflects on the nature of disasters, both public and private. A reflection on things lost, Parry allows himself to feel deeply, to ask what went wrong and to ruminate tragic moments with humility and romantic sensibility.

Tacoma Narrows is Mitchell Parry’s first collection of poetry. Written over a number of years and in different parts of Canada and Western Europe, *Tacoma Narrows* is lush and richly mature, with settings that range from England, Yugoslavia and Greece to Montreal, Banff and the small outer Gulf islands of British Columbia. Acutely aware of the nature that surrounds him, Parry embraces things like the wind howling at his window, an elk in the backyard or an orange sunset, and attaches them to memories.

A deep meditation in three parts, *Tacoma Narrows* starts with *Faithless*, where Parry ponders the personal disasters that occur at home or away — death, divorce, the losses that follow us wherever we go and the realisation that “this is what it is to be human / & in love.” *Burn Unit* opens with the award-winning poem of the same name. In this second part, Parry moves towards the possibility that communities, literal and figurative, might offer hope. The final section, *Tacoma Narrows*, is devoted to an extended examination of chaos and disaster, ultimately concluding that “it’s good to be here” after all. The poem itself is a meditation on the 1940 collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, a catastrophe that reminds us that “we live in the depths of a fluid / world.”

Tacoma Narrows is a consideration on how we weather storms, the “currents, turmoil, vortices” of life and recognizing that one is “still learning to let lost things stay lost.” The result is a courageous, moving and deeply personal collection that asks us to realise that letting things go is the hardest thing disasters of all kinds demand of us, but it’s also perhaps the most important lesson they can teach us.

— more —

Susan Baker, Publicity & Promotion
Tel. (506) 459 0858 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377
sbaker@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Born in Etobicoke, ON, Mitchell Parry spent part of his childhood in Manchester, England. He obtained a Masters of Arts from the University of Western Ontario in English Literature and Film Studies. He has been an ESL teacher and an arts administrator and has worked in film production in Calgary and Montreal.

Parry is a frequent contributor to *The Malahat Review* and has written many reviews and articles. His own poems have appeared in literary journals such as *The Fiddlehead*, *The Antigonish Review*, *Pottersfield Portfolio*, *Event* and *The Malahat Review*. He won *The Antigonish Review's* Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest in 2002 and *Pottersfield Portfolio's* Sixth Annual Compact Poetry Competition in 2001.

Mitchell Parry currently divides his time between Victoria, where he teaches film studies at the University of Victoria, and Pender Island where he lives with his partner, poet Marlene Cookshaw.

— 30 —

CONTACT INFORMATION for review copies, author interviews, or publication excerpts, please contact Susan Baker at sbaker@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377. High-res cover files are available at http://gooselane.com/gooselaneeditions/?page_id=6.

Susan Baker, Publicity & Promotion
Tel. (506) 459 0858 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377
sbaker@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com