



BOOK RELEASE

Poetry

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One

Serge Patrice Thibodeau

Translated by Jo-Anne Elder

New Translation of *Seul on est*

Winner 2008 Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry

Serge Patrice Thibodeau's writings, influenced by his travels in Asia, the Middle East, and cities including Prague, Budapest, and Warsaw, focus on themes of wandering and erotic desire, a mystical and sensual quest imbued with Islamic and Christian forms of spirituality. While living in Moncton during a twenty-month period, the mascaret (tidal bore) of the Petitcodiac River inspired meditative focus for Thibodeau out of which was drawn *One*, a collection of sensitive and precise observations of a walker, deeply aware of the power of place, leading the reader along a path carved from the landscape by the ebb and flow of the mascaret.

Rather than locked in solitude, human consciousness exists for Serge Patrice Thibodeau in a state of singular wonder, of unique and mindful appreciation. These poems reverberate with a deep spiritual experience that emanates from strands of flickering grass in snow-muffled salt marshes, the bronze of ice in tidal flats, shells, the ligature of root systems — and equally from roasted chestnuts, coffee, and a chunk of cheese.

THE AUTHOR

Poet and essayist Serge Patrice Thibodeau was born in Rivière Verte, New Brunswick. After his studies at the Centre Universitaire Saint-Louis (Université de Moncton, Edmundston campus) and at Université Laval, he completed an M.A. in Creative Literary Studies in 1996 at the Université du Québec à Montréal. An inveterate traveller, Thibodeau lived in Montréal from 1986 until 2000. Literary critics see him as the discovery of the 1990s in Quebec poetry. Some include him among key poets of our era and believe that his collections deserve to be placed alongside those of the masters of French literature.

Thibodeau is active in Amnesty International, and he is in demand as a lecturer internationally, not only for his views on human rights but also for what he has to say about Quebec and Acadian poetry. He has taken part in many literary events in Canada and abroad, and many of his poems have been translated into English, Arabic, Castilian (Spanish), Catalan, Romanian, Slovakian, and Czech. His awards include the Prix France-Acadie (1991), Prix Émile-Nelligan (1992), Prix Edgar-Lespérance (1994), Grand Prix du Festival international de la poésie de Trois-Rivières (1996), Governor General's Literary Award (1996 and 2007), and Prix Éloizes (2001).

Susan Baker, Publicity & Promotions

Tel. (506) 450 4251 / Toll free 1 (888) 926 8377

sbaker@gooselane.com www.gooselane.com

THE TRANSLATOR

Jo-Anne Elder is a writer, literary translator, community worker, and editor. Her most recent translation, *Beatitudes* by Herménégilde Chiasson, was nominated for the 2008 Governor General's Award for translation. She has been shortlisted for the Atlantic Poetry Prize, and her collection of flash fiction, *Postcards from Ex-Lovers*, won the Writers' Federation of New Brunswick's inaugural David Adams Richards prize. This is her fourteenth published translation.

ACCOLADES

"His poetic imagination is not tied to a specific nation and geography, and his space is hardly ever static." — Émile J. Talbot, *World Literature Today*

"Imagined, then written like a motif that has been worked in myriad ways in a polished style." — Canada Council for the Arts news release announcing the 2007 Governor General's Awards

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 book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.

— 30 —

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