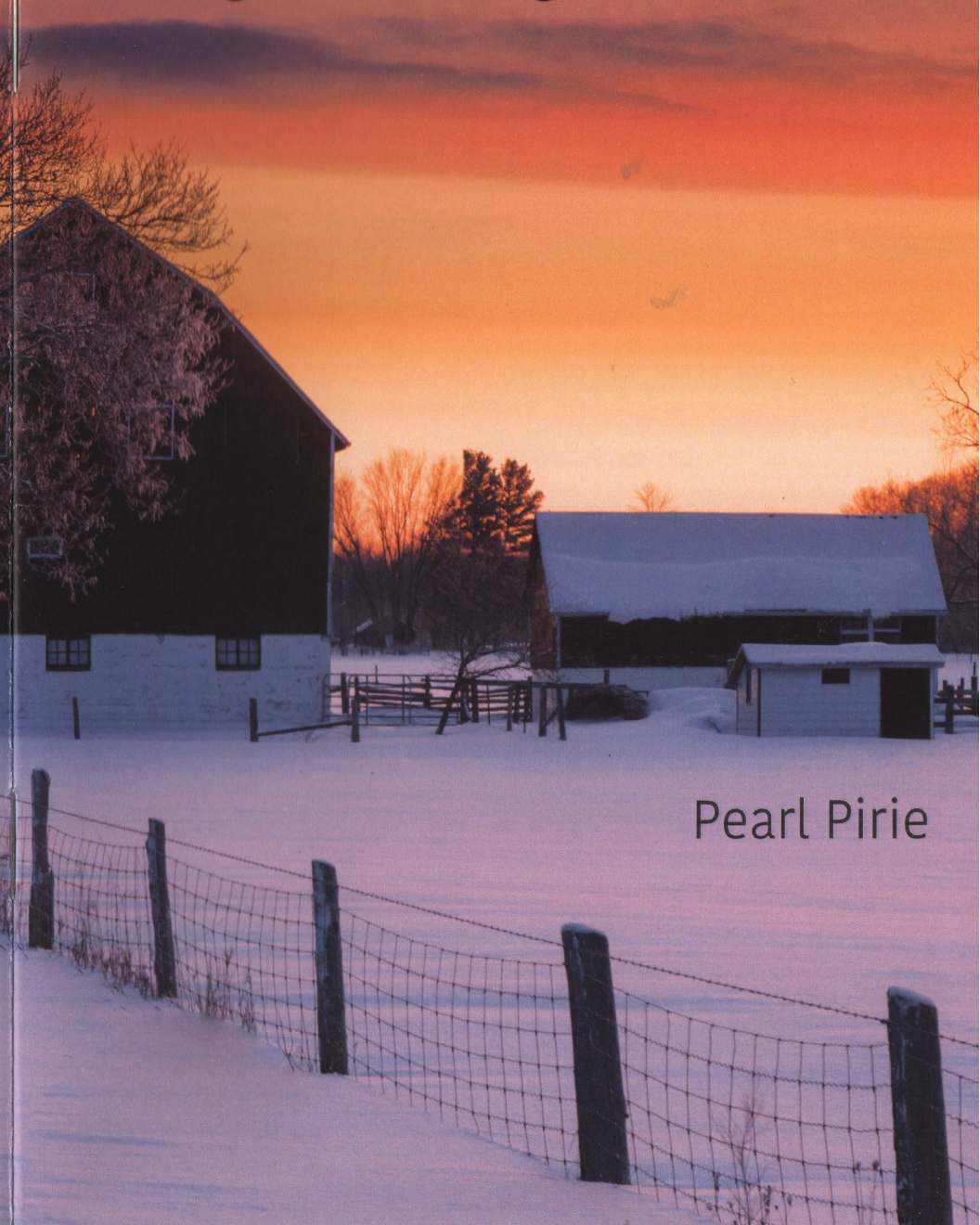


# *Not Quite Dawn*



Pearl Pirie





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Éditions des petits nuages

## **Not Quite Dawn**

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ISBN 978-1-926519-49-4

Cover Photo: iStock.com

Cover Design: Mike Montreuil and Lynda Wegner

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peonies  
held up by string  
dad's chin drops

quiet reflections  
the fan turns  
in the stainless steel bowl

July 12 —  
orange lilies  
in the hail

the fresh fig  
meets the reflux  
I was right  
never to have  
children

thick fog  
over the kettle —  
sundowning

sunlight through  
winter-brown hydrangeas  
my migraine disappears

cancer ward  
an old man scratches  
lottery tickets

from the pulp mill  
the whitest  
cloud



she says  
the galvanized tub  
was my bath —  
I remember dad  
gutting fish in it

crow's caw  
inside forest shadows  
ours

trout uncloak  
as they move  
still no reply from you

Heart Institute  
waiting room  
wearing  
my best shoes  
to meet the doctor

heat ripples  
from the wood stove  
MRI booked

she phones  
with bad news —  
on the counter  
the cut potatoes  
turn black.

my height  
in an icicle  
gone at noon



near the buttons  
elevator's  
salt stains

cloud's shadow  
closer than the tree  
uncle's burial

delphiniums —  
a wreath the colour  
of wrist veins

after the wake pretending  
there are distinctions  
I study  
identical cans  
of chickpeas.

at the grave  
mother and daughter  
share a shadow

a toddler  
sings the ABC song  
war memorial

long evening  
even our shadows  
cross

snow squeaks  
breath and walk  
shorten

blowing snow  
my teacup warm  
but empty

snow on black hoodies  
the boys scarf back  
Jamaican patties



double socks

who's the ugly  
step-sister now?

maple taffy snow  
sugar shack  
kisses

moving day  
my buddha has lost  
his marble

cheeks tire  
at the house warming  
a smile for everyone  
even the first  
mosquito

## seasonal constants

cold season  
the chapped paws  
of the farm dog

eating the apple  
with its bruises—  
she won't leave him

spring melt  
even the fenceposts  
are growing

late day sun  
my only chance  
to have long legs

early thaw—  
part of  
a pileated wing

dusk's freezing rain  
pings the glass  
the blanket closer

Sunday morning  
in bed together  
cough drops & tissues



dusty *Myosotis sylvatica*  
snow on the kale  
on the lake

now older  
than father  
coffee dregs

unsettled snow  
the storm comes  
into my knuckles

widow for a year  
his hat missing  
from the hook

his favourite bolo tie  
how many useless things  
to linger over

recycling day  
from years of conferences  
keeping binder clips

clouds part  
reveal  
another

hydrangeas  
still in cellophane  
the vibrations  
from a steel guitar  
open something inside



not quite dawn  
river's step ping st one s  
further a p a r t

sun after a storm  
on the lake  
pine needles float

Habitant pea soup  
the tinned taste  
mom used to heat

tendrils' fist  
reaches hmmm  
—another ivy

folding the laundry  
in yesterday's shirt  
winter solstice

dryer static  
in our underwear  
missing you

rain settles  
the restaurant bill  
neatly between us

can  
dle  
light  
can  
de  
light



scent of cold  
his old  
sweater

New Year's Eve's  
spectacular show  
his tight jeans

jealous flicker  
on his sleeve  
my white hair

retail therapy  
surrounded by buddhas  
each with a price

traffic jam busses  
even the lungs  
are congested

birdsong  
meteor shower ends  
unwatched

spring sunshine  
cold feet and tongue  
of a housefly

sun patch  
the cat's ears  
cloud

sweeping —  
hurry sleepyhead  
crumbs sprout legs

the hawk  
being eaten  
by fog



carrying  
the sound of rain —  
pink umbrella

bare earth—  
garden weeded  
one disoriented slug

tulip sprouts  
tip their soil  
a shirtless runner

cherry petal  
under the lens  
veins, blemishes

park bench kiss —  
at first we don't see  
they're seniors

## Acknowledgements

For this collection of a 20 years journey, I have many people to thank. Sharp eyes and people helped shape me into coherence, and enthusiasm. Thanks go to my husband and those at KaDo Ottawa for test-listening. And many others who gave feedback and encouragement on these poems, including but not limited to: Mike Montreuil, Grant Savage, Bryan Cook, LeRoy Gorman, Susan Gillis, Kozue Uzawa, Marshall Hryciuk, and TA Carter.

**I am grateful to the editors of the publications where versions of these poems have previously appeared.**

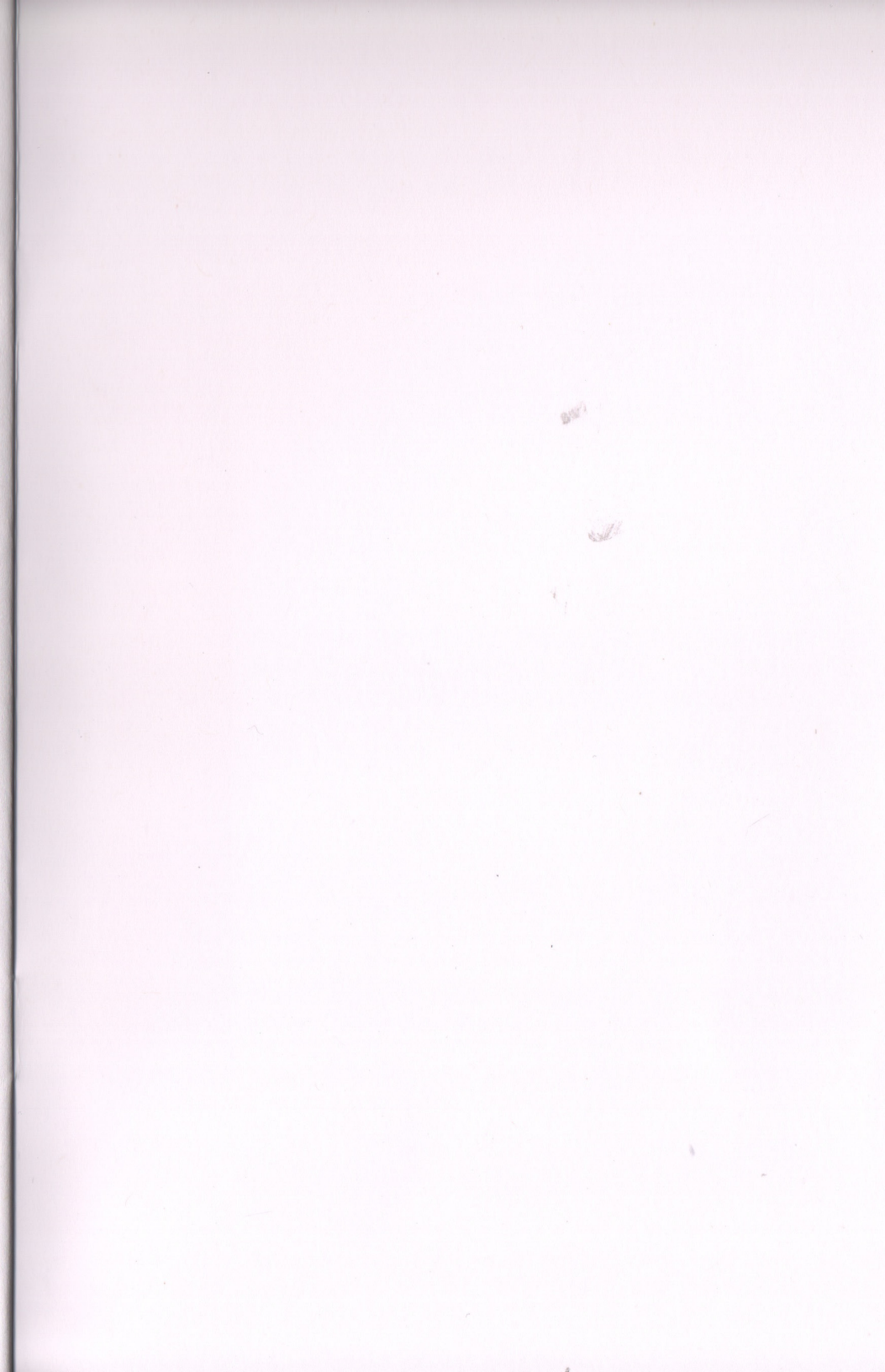
**at the grave:** *The 6th Holographic Haiku Anthology* (Haiku Canada, 2012). **bare earth:** *Haiku Canada Review (HCR)* 10:1 (Feb 2016). **blowing snow:** *Lifting the Sky: Southwestern Haiku and Haiga* (Dos Gatos Press, 2013). **carrying:** *A Splash of Water* (Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology, 2015). **cherry petal:** *Wordless: Haiku Canada 40 Years of Haiku* (Ekstasis Editions, 2017). **chest vibrates and cloud's shadow:** *Haiku and Other Quiet Moments*, Pearl Pirie (chapbook, PageHalfFull, 2000). **doubled socks:** *Matrix* 107 (Haiku and Beyond: The Gendai Issue, Fall 2017). **dry straw scent:** *Gusts* 21 (spring/ summer 2015). **following the crow:** *Halibut* (Jul 2018). **galvanized tub:** *Gusts* (Spring/Summer 2016). **heart institute:** *Gusts* 22 (Fall/ Winter, 2015). **Habitant soup:** *Peter F Yacht Club* 25 (Mar 2017). **in the squeaking cold:** *Into Our Words* (Haiku North America Conference Anthology, Press Here Press, 2009). **maple taffy snow:** *Watermark Me Free*, Pearl Pirie (chapbook, PageHalfFull,



2000). **my height:** *A Hundred Gourds* 4:4 (Sep 2015). **near the buttons:** *Salt Stains*, Pearl Pirie (Haiku Canada Sheet, HCR 10: 1, Feb 2016). **peony heads:** *Place-Keeping*, Pearl Pirie (trifold, phafours press, 2015); *Wordless: Haiku Canada 40 Years of Haiku* (Ekstasis Editions, 2017). **park bench kiss:** *Erotic Haiku: Of Skin on Skin* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2017). **retail therapy:** *Bottle Rockets* 34 (Feb 2016). **quiet reflections:** *Comparing Tattoos* (Haiku Canada Members' Anthology, 2015). **she phoned:** *Gusts* 19 (Spring/ Summer 2014). **snow on black hoodies:** *Lighting the Global Lantern*, Terry Ann Carter (Wintergreen Studios Press, 2011). **sunshine:** *Halibut* (Jul 2018). **sweeping:** *Haiku and Other Quiet Moments*, Pearl Pirie (chapbook, PageHalfFull, 2000). **the fresh figs:** *Gusts* 19 (Spring/ Summer 2014). **the hawk:** *The Touch of a Moth* (35th Annual Haiku Canada Members' Anthology, Scrivener Press, 2012). **trout uncloak:** *Failed Haiku* 2 (Feb 2016). **tulip sprouts:** *Frogpond* 37:2 (Summer 2014). **tendril's fist:** *Kitchissippi Times* (Jun 25 2016). **toddler:** *one sentence poems* (Aug 2016). **unsettled snow:** *In The Clear Dawn Sky* (Haiku Canada Members' Anthology 2009); *been shed bore*, Pearl Pirie (Chaudiere Books, 2010); and *Painting Sunlight: A Trilingual Canadian Haiku Anthology* (Wah, 2015). **widow for a year:** *HCR* 9:1 (Feb 2015); and "A History of Haiku in Canada (in Two Parts) by Terry Ann Carter," BrickBooks.ca (May 2015).









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ISBN: 978-1-926519-49-4