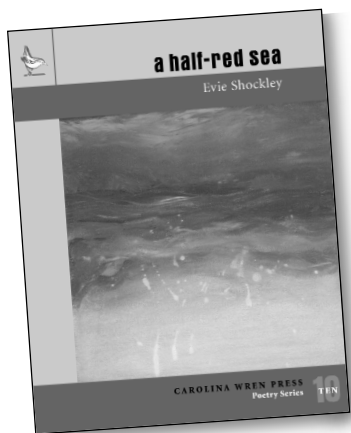


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Carolina Wren Press announces the publication of:

**a half-red sea**



by Evie Shockley

Carolina Wren Press  
Poetry Series # 10  
ISBN 0-932112-53-6  
\$15.95 paperback, 82 pp.

EVIE SHOCKLEY published a chapbook of poems, *The Gorgon Goddess*, with Carolina Wren Press in 2001. Her poetry has

appeared widely in journals and anthologies, including *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Callaloo*, *Hambone*, *HOW2*, and *Poetry Daily: Poems from the World's Most Popular Poetry Website*. She also publishes prose; among other things, her short fiction is included in *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora* and an essay on poetics appears along with her poetry in *Rainbow Darkness: An Anthology of African American Poetry*. Shockley is an assistant professor of English at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ.



CREDIT: STÉPHANE ROBOLIN

**ABOUT THE PRESS** Carolina Wren Press publishes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children's books (under its Lollipop Power imprint). As our mission (*new authors, new audiences*) suggests, the Press is committed to an ever-growing vision of the audience for, and the producers of, contemporary literature.

**Advance Praise for *a half-red sea*:**

"Evie Shockley gives us, beautifully, the sound of justice, the voice of \*aware\* (Afro) America, and the soul music of consciousness. In these unapologetically excellent, astonishingly sensual, whimsically political, and fiercely personal poems, Shockley uses the moral clarity of history to reveal how foolish we become when we forget our roots."

—GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE

"Evie Shockley isn't waiting for the waters to part; her words work their own miracles. Read them and feel free. Read them, too, and beware: the world is wicked. As the poet says, evil is clever. But Evie is more clever. The very forms of her poems are a whack back at fate. Their sounds unshackle us. Egypt to the right, Cannan ahead,—each line speaks a bridge into being." —JOSEPH DONAHUE

"Evie Shockley's poetry is a vortex, a delta where a hundred streams meet and deposit their rich traffic. In one poem she channels the past, relaying conversations between ancestral women; in another she telegraphs the future, holding a thousand words in a single tortured frame. Shockley is a single voice and a whole choir; now she speaks, now she sings, now she writes; all the while she signifies and she languages." —DAVID KELLOGG

"In *a half-red sea*, Evie Shockley is 'dreaming the lives of the ancestors.' Navigating against prevailing currents, these poems sail on eddy and backflow, taking inspiration from knots and twists of American history and culture. Whether improvising between the lines of a slave narrative in 'henry bibb considers love and livery,' amplifying Lady Day's most devastating blues in 'you can say that again, billie,' or going freestyle with 'double bop for ntozake shange,' Shockley's imagination travels every which way. Her gallery of lyric portraits presents a historical continuum of African Americans caught in double binds of culture and identity, from Crispus Attucks, Phillis Wheatley, Sally Hemmings, and Henry Bibb, to Billie Holiday, Miles Davis, and Anita Hill, along with engaging fictional characters such as Trula, Yellow Mary's enigmatic companion in Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*. In 'a thousand words' and other reflections on contemporary events, Shockley's firm grounding in history adds weight and depth to her observations of the recent past and present."

—HARRYETTE MULLEN