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Press Release

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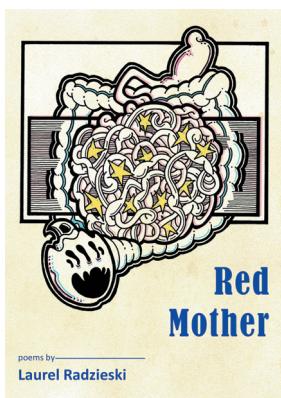
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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *Red Mother* by Laurel Radzieski



February 14, 2018 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Red Mother* by Laurel Radzieski. In this, her first full-length book, Radzieski weaves a love story told from the perspective of a parasite. This series of short poems explores the intimacy, desire and devotion we all experience by following the sometimes tender, often distressing relationship that emerges between a parasite and its host. Radzieski's poetry is playful, though often with sinister undertones. Far from romanticizing either role, *Red Mother* takes readers on a tour of their own innards, exposing the hooks and claws of all involved. Following the parasite's life cycle, the book blurs the line between science and poetic license to create a fantastical romp not for the squeamish. Although parasites are not known as conversationalists, Radzieski's guest has a lot to say.

"For a metaphor to work it needs to be real and Laurel Radzieski, in *Red Mother*, gives voice to an all too real parasite. A cross between Kafka and a horror film, these concise, concrete poems slowly burn until they overtake us through profound recognition. Dare we call her parasite love?"

—Kenny Fries, author of *In the Province of the Gods* and *In the Gardens of Japan*

"In these compact folds, curls of words on page in coiled small shapes, host body becomes night sky and increasingly intimate terms flex gut songs. Germ fable churns in compositional allegory, and a Frankenstein story is rescaled and mutates on the level of cell and issue. Laurel Radzieski is a wildly original poet in this purging of confusion and charges with whom or what speaks through what we or one carries around in the cosmos inside."

—Douglas A. Martin, author of *In the Time of Assignments* and *Acker*

"Halfway through Laurel Radzieski's *Red Mother* she writes, 'There are so many ways to tell this story, / all sickening. / So much of who we are / requires purging.' With that idea in mind, there are many ways to read this inventive and complex collection of short poems that take on the life cycle of a parasite. The poems are at once scientific and fantastical but can easily be a metaphor for our own dependent relationships. Radzieski's sparse style brings a sharp cleanliness to a rather messy topic."

—Stephen S. Mills, author of *He Do the Gay Man in Different Voices* and *A History of the Unmarried*

Laurel Radzieski earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College. She is a poetry editor for *Clockhouse* and her work has appeared in *Really System*, *inkscrawl* and other publications. Laurel's poetry has also been featured on the Farm/Art DTour in La Rue, Wisconsin. She has served as a teacher, director, stage manager, actor, theatrical designer and playwright. She lives with her husband in northeastern Pennsylvania.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



photo by
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