



# *Dreadful Wind & Rain*

A LYRICAL FAIRY TALE BY

Diane Gilliam

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Once upon a time, there lived a girl whose story was not her own...

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So the story goes: Neglected and abused by her family, eclipsed by her elder and more beautiful sister, a young girl longs for happily-ever-after, for something, *someone* to rescue her. She is soon swept away into the next chapter of her life: marriage—a promising world mirroring Old Testament stories and fairy tale traditions. But loving just anyone and living the age-old “ever-after” narrative, as it turns out, fails to bring true happiness after all. Dragged down by a destructive marriage, her sister’s continued manipulations, and the growing weight of roles and expectations created by others at her back, she must choose between continuing in her familiar, complacent life, or boldly breaking free—and finally making her own way.

Named for an Appalachian murder ballad in which a girl is drowned by her sister, *Dreadful Wind & Rain* unseats expectations for what it means to live a fairy tale life, revealing the powerful force that comes from stripping away traditional roles and beginning to write a story all your own.

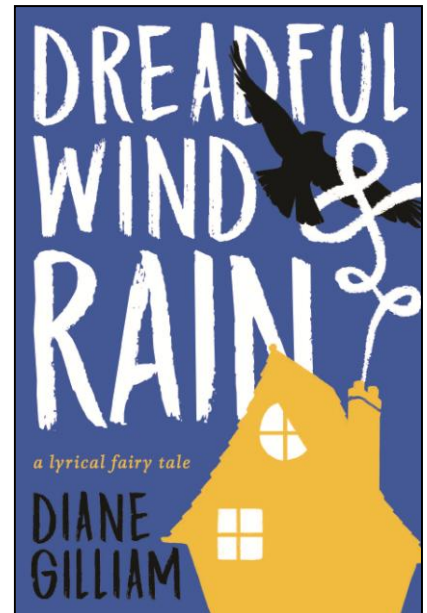
## ADVANCE PRAISE

“Like all the most original poetry, *Dreadful Wind & Rain* draws its singular power from the place of origins, as female figures from fairy tales and Bible stories are transformed to confront, and ultimately transcend, the damage and entrapment of familial cruelty and betrayal. These intimate voices, interwoven with her own, informed by a deep confidence in the inner life, together create that extraordinary venture: the imaginative transit of a change of heart—a restorative grace.”

—Eleanor Wilner, author of *The Girl with Bees in Her Hair*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diane Gilliam is the author of three previous collections of poetry: *Kettle Bottom*, *One of Everything*, and *Recipe for Blackberry Cake* (chapbook). She holds an MFA from Warren Wilson College and a PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures from Ohio State University. She has received an Individual Artist Grant from the Ohio Arts Council, the Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing, and a Pushcart Prize. She is the most recent recipient of the \$50,000 Gift of Freedom literary award from the A Room of Her Own Foundation.



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