



News from

Red Hen Press

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Many Ways to Say It

Poetry by

Eva Saulitis

Many Ways to Say It, a collection of lyric poems, is a series of prayers, cries, dispatches, observational records, secret messages, weather reports, daily logs, love poems, trespasses, confessions, letters, and songs. A trained marine biologist, Eva Saulitis uses poetry as a tool to push past the laws of biology—objectivity and detachment—to get as close as she can get to the harsh inner and outer place she calls home. Though chosen, for her, place requires constant re-negotiation and exploration. Living for more than two decades in coastal Alaska is like an arranged marriage, rife with ambivalence and risk, desire and loss. The poems portray the difficult process of this kind of marriage, of “marrying this chunk of earth / the seasons, mud, and crack-up.” Close observation of natural phenomena is both the poet’s and the biologist’s method. Thus these poems are dispatches from inner and outer wilderness: white-outs, mountain tops, swamps, muskegs, ecotones, and woods. The lover, a second character in the poems, is human and animal, flesh and mineral, mind and earth, heart and weather. Ultimately, *Many Ways to Say It* is an unscientific investigation into the wild animal that is the self, its contradictions, urges, demands, and terrors, and its desire for self-definition. But it is only by studying the wild without—through encounters with, say, a moose, a mountain, a coyote, a pond—that the poet comes to terms with the wild, and untouchable, within.

Many Ways to Say It

Poetry by Eva Saulitis

ISBN: 978-1-59709-242-5

6 x 9; Tradepaper

96 pages

Price: US \$17.95

Release: September 1, 2012

Biographical note:

Eva Saulitis, an essayist, poet, and marine biologist, has studied the killer whales of Prince William Sound, Alaska for 25 years. Her first book, *Leaving Resurrection: Chronicles of a Whale Scientist* (Boreal Books/Red Hen Press, 2008), was a finalist for the Tupelo Press Non-Fiction Prize and the ForeWord Book Award. Her second non-fiction book, *Into Great Silence*, is forthcoming from Beacon Press. A recipient of writing fellowships from the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska State Council on the Arts, she is an associate professor in the University of Alaska Low-Residency MFA program.

Praise for *Many Ways to Say It*:

“Naturalist and writer Eva Saulitis’ stunning new book melts (marries) the gorgeous and dangerous natural world with the moist, hidden geography of the female body. These poems are miraculous songs of grief and pressure. They refuse to let the reader (listener) turn away. We *can’t* refuse to hear the poet’s ‘many ways of saying’ that life comes and comes and comes, no matter what the cost. A wonderful book.”

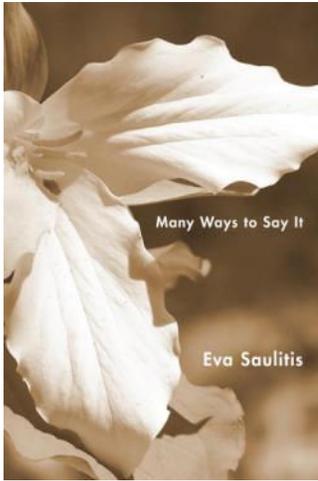
—Hilda Raz, author of *What Happens* and *All Odd and Splendid*

“Saulitis writes these poems that are like messages from the dark, lush country inside us, carried by ‘that nameless bird in the morning.’”

—Michelle Salcido, *The Rumpus*



More Praise for *Many Ways to Say It*:



“Eva Saulitis is part of nature—seawater and glacial ice, alder marsh and birch forest. She’s part scientist, part oboist, part lover, part Latvian, part Alaskan. Her smart and passionate poems bring us wildly alive. These new poems enact an eternal thirst for mindful, spiritual, fully-embodied ways of thinking and feeling. Open and curious, Eva Saulitis embraces with an ‘injured and blistered amen’ the longings, the terrors, and the glories of our brief time on this ever-changing earth.”

—Peggy Shumaker, author of *Gnawed Bones*, Alaska State Writer Laureate

“Eva Saulitis is a poet who inhabits the planet with all her senses attuned. *Many Ways to Say It* is a collection rich with acute observation of the non-human denizens of the world, botanical, animal, mineral, and rich in characters, too, from Linnaeus, the father of taxonomy, to Shakespeare’s Cordelia. These poems metamorphose through the book in form and voice, holding image and thought up to an endless light, examining and singing all the refractions and possibilities. *Many Ways to Say It* is a stunning debut

collection of poems we readers can trust and inhabit and relish.”

—Derick Bursleson, author of *Ejo* and *Never Night*

“When Saulitis looks at nature she looks reverently, authoritatively, and ‘carefully as a predator.’ As you might expect from a poet who’s also a marine biologist specializing in killer whales, Saulitis’s natural world is vivid, breathtaking, and utterly realistic, a place where ‘God’s a mean man’ and ‘the prettiness of the tundra / never satisfies.’ What does satisfy is Saulitis’s deeper explorations of both terrain and language, her efforts ‘to scan the seas for a finned or winged / insight.’ The intricate sound patterns and relentlessly vertiginous forms that result take their cues from the environment at hand and each poem is a verbal map of its landscape, from wheeling gulls to a glacier’s ‘hues / of transparency’ to ‘the mountain razored out of night.’”

—Laurie Greer, Book Buyer, Politics and Prose

Excerpt from “Maybe I’ll (Go)”

Maybe at dawn I’ll scan the slopes for him
from the bedroom window, hear only
his receding yips and one long
narcissistic yowl. Maybe the day coming on
will erase him, swipe the dark between trees
with its dusty rectangle.

And maybe tonight he’ll come back. In bed,
I’ll be reading, flash-lit
under the sheet
while my loved one sleeps.
He’ll arrive at the appointed spot,
at the agreed-upon hour, wait his minute
and lope away. Maybe my heart will seize
for wanting to go with him like water
seizing into ice.

-from *Many Ways to Say It*

