

PRESS RELEASE

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EMBERS

a novel in poems by Terry Wolverton

Embers is at once dense and delicious, crammed with sorrow and drama, a marvelous American tale, a haunting work of art. The pure craft of the thing is fascinating and daunting. This is certainly Wolverton's masterpiece — the poem, the novel, she was put on earth to write.

— Carolyn See,
author of *Making a Literary Life*

Beginning with Huron tribal mythology and ranging through Detroit's salt-city frontier days and, in a particularly stunning suite of poems, its more recent and no less violent urban history, *Embers* creates an unforgettable portrait of a century, and a city, and a family struggling toward wholeness.

— Janet Fitch,
author of *White Oleander*

About the Author:

As a writer, Terry Wolverton has long been interested in the marriage of poetic and prose forms. Her 1996 novel, *Bailey's Beads*, included several passages from a character in a coma that many readers identified as poetry. Her 2002 memoir, *Insurgent Muse*, named by the Los Angeles Times Book Review as one of the best books of 2002, was cited by many reviewers for its poetic language. In her previous collections of poetry, *Black Slip* and *Mystery Bruise*, Wolverton has often followed the narrative impulse, using her poems to tell stories. Of *Embers*, Wolverton says, "I started out to write a straight historical novel, but I felt early on that this form was not adequate to convey the fragmentary quality of the characters lives, their brokenness."

Terry Wolverton has lived in Los Angeles since 1976; her award-winning memoir, *Insurgent Muse*, tells the fascinating story of her years in the feminist art movement in L.A. But she grew up in Detroit, and *Embers* is an impressionistic history of a city Wolverton calls, "scrappy and feisty, much abused, much maligned, finally written off, yet a city still in there fighting and showing the enormous spirit it is always been known for. That city is the perfect backdrop for *Embers* protagonist, Marie Girard, a woman whose fighting spirit never leaves her, despite enormous adversity."

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