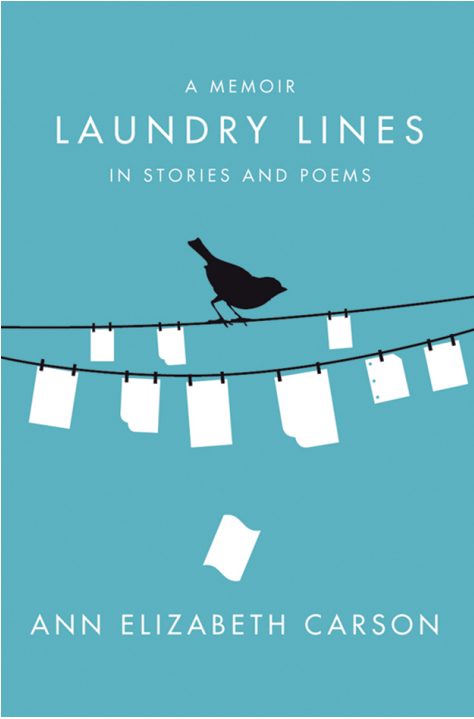


***Laundry Lines: A Memoir in Stories and Poems* by Ann Elizabeth Carson**
(October 2015)



With grace and courage Ann Elizabeth Carson looks to the past from the perspective of a contemporary feminist. A lively evocation of her aunts and their home in Cheltenham, Ontario reveals the rich and powerful ground for her own emerging sense of herself. As Toronto in the '30s, '40s and '50s comes to life in a rare blend of prose and poetry, Ann Elizabeth is caught unawares as the stories collectively uncover events that shaped her social-political outlook and reveal how our untold stories are inevitably woven into the fabric of our public lives. *Laundry Lines: A Memoir in Stories and Poems* is about the imperative to tell our stories for our survival, the complex emotional inheritance and painful undertow in families, the slow reconciliation with the blows and beauties meted out by life that comes with age, and the deep sensual salve offered by surrender to nature.

One unique feature of this book is Ann Elizabeth’s exploration of similarities between the unique coded language used by women and the one used by those working on the Underground Railway. The positioning of laundry on a line and particular quilted patterns were used to convey, for instance, whether a man/woman or a travel route was safe. Ann uses her skill as a long-time psychotherapist and writer to elucidate the role of women’s hidden language and how we communicate a rich subterranean world of emotion and knowledge subtly to one another.

Writer, sculptor, poet and feminist, Ann Elizabeth Carson is the author of several volumes of poetry and prose, including Shadows Light (2005), My Grandmother’s Hair (2006), and The Risks of Remembrance (2010). Her most recent book, We All Become Stories (2013), explores experiences of memory and aging. Previously a Toronto psychotherapist in private practice, she worked for many years as a counsellor, as well as a supervisor and instructor at York University. Ann Elizabeth Carson is One of Toronto’s Mille Femmes (2008 Luminato Festival) which paid tribute to women who have made a contribution to the arts. She continues to write, sculpt and read from her work in solo and collaborative events in Toronto and on Manitoulin Island, where she is a long-time summer resident, and to lead workshops on how the arts create a new perspective on the ways in which we see ourselves and our world.

“This is one of Canada’s voices, silenced for too long, that lived through the Robertson Davies era; the Morley Callaghan, Dorothy Livesay, Margaret Lawrence, Ethel Wilson and Anne Wilkinson years, now come to life in memoir and poetry. A rare combination of prose and poetry that returns to the experience of how women lived and were shaped by the 20th century. We do not have an array of widely published women poets prior to the 1960s. In Ann Elizabeth Carson’s *Laundry Lines: A Memoir in Stories and Poems*, we are able to witness how her language translates from one century to another into the new millennium.”

—Sonia Di Placido, poet, playwright, artist

Book Information

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