



LARVAE
of the
NEAREST
STARS

Poems

Catherine W. Carter

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New Poetry by Catherine W. Carter

No carp have swum in with the torrent, but everything else comes up as the net's folds and curtains sieve through the scurrying grass shrimp, transparent as animate water: silversides that quiver and flash and flee; beer cans' jagged, innocent tin razors; roseate grains of barnacles clamped by their calcium foreheads to the glassy elvers of the Chesapeake sea serpent; and condoms, rinsed of any freight of joy or shame, split now to admit passage of squirming fingerling mermaids, or a glittering lively handful of what, at first, could well be bioluminescent copepods, but which, seen close, reveal themselves to be the sparkling larvae of the nearest stars.

—from "Seining the Parking Lot"

Praise for Catherine Carter's Poetry

"I've been an admirer of Catherine Carter's poetry for over a decade, but this collection achieves a whole new level with its craft, vision, and urgency. *Larvae of the Nearest Stars* makes clear that she is one of our country's finest poets, and her book deserves a place on the same shelf as collections by Mary Oliver and Wendell Berry."

—Ron Rash, PEN/Faulkner Award finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *Serena* and *The Cove*

"Carter treats the sometimes-scary material she addresses with poise and wit, humor and frankness. . . She speaks with the kind of grace that is gained only after facing daunting difficulties with resolute courage."

—Fred Chappell, North Carolina Poet Laureate (Emeritus)

"Catherine Carter's poems are Big Dipper fishhooks."

—Sarah Lindsay, author of *Debt to the Bone-Eating Snotflower*

Larvae of the Nearest Stars offers deeply serious verse that packs profound emotional and spiritual power while encouraging readers to laugh out loud. Catherine W. Carter's quirky, accessible poems bridge and question binaries—human and nonhuman, lyric and narrative, science and magic, river trash and galaxies. The poems in this engaging and meditative collection are sometimes dark, often funny, but always surprising.

Catherine W. Carter is the author of *The Memory of Gills* (LSU Press), *The Swamp Monster at Home* (LSU Press), and *Marks of the Witch* (Jacar Press). Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Orion*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. She lives in Cullowhee, NC, where she is a Professor of English at Western Carolina University.