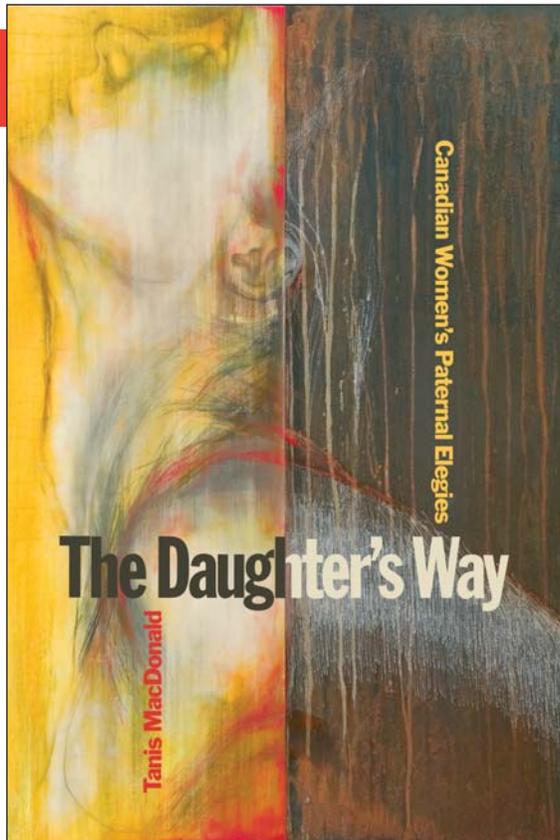


New from Wilfrid Laurier University Press

The Daughter's Way: Canadian Women's Paternal Elegies

Tanis MacDonald

\$85.00 Hardcover • 350 pp. • 978-1-55458-362-1 • May 2012



The Daughter's Way is an original, absorbing, and long-overdue critical examination of the way Canadian female poets have written against the grain of the male elegiac tradition. MacDonald's scholarly conversation with these works is an important step in understanding the contrary energies of feminist remembrance.

— Sarah Henstra, Ryerson University, author of *The Counter-Memorial Impulse in Twentieth-Century English Fiction*

"How women are to be—as bodies, as artists, and as elegists—is predicated on their ability to memorialize and inherit," writes Tanis MacDonald in the introduction to *The Daughter's Way*. In the carefully theorized and beautifully written chapters that follow, she traces an arc of female paternal elegies with sensitivity and a keen critical and feminist intelligence. Erudite, insightful, nuanced, and continuously engaging, *The Daughter's Way* is a lucid crystallization of years of study, thought, and felt experience in and around elegies that casts a brilliant light on the texts and on their literary, personal, and social contexts. It is a significant contribution to Canadian literary and feminist studies and, indeed, to studies of the elegiac mode itself.

— D.M.R. Bentley, University of Western Ontario, editor of *Canadian Poetry*

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

Part One: The Daughter's Way

Introduction: Who Could Not Sing: Elegy and its (Female) Discontents

- 1 Elegy and Authority: The Daughter's Way

Part Two: Daughters of Jove, Daughters of Job: Canadian Modernism's Bloody-Minded Women

- 2 Jove's Daughter: Dorothy Livesay's Elegiac Daughteronomy
- 3 "So Much Militia Routed in the Man": P.K. Page's Military Fathers
- 4 "Absence, Havoc": Jay Macpherson's Rebellious Daughters

Part Three: Differently Conceived Nations: The Mourner's Journey

- 5 "Do What You Are Good At": Margaret Atwood's Authorizing Elegies
- 6 The Pilgrim and the Riddle: Anne Carson's "The Anthropology of Water"
- 7 Gateway Politics, Grief Poetics: West Meets West in Kristjana Gunnars's *Zero Hour*

Part Four: Furies and Filles de la Sagesse: Language and Difference at Century's End

- 8 Signature, Inheritance, Inquiry: Lola Lemire Tostevin's *Cartouches*
 - 9 Elegy of Refusal: Erin Mouré's *Furious*
- Conclusion: From the Water
Works Cited
Index

MEDIA, EXAMINATION, AND REVIEW COPIES

Contact Clare Hitchens
519-884-0710 ext. 2665 or clare@press.wlu.ca

ORDERS

Contact your favourite bookseller or call 1-800-565-9523

The Daughter's Way investigates negotiations of female subjectivity in twentieth-century Canadian women's elegies with a special emphasis on the father's death as a literary and political watershed. The book examines the work of Dorothy Livesay, P.K. Page, Jay Macpherson, Margaret Atwood, Kristjana Gunnars, Lola Lemire Tostevin, Anne Carson, and Erin Mouré as elegiac daughteronomies—literary artifacts of mourning that grow from the poets' investigation into the function and limitations of elegiac convention. Some poets treat the father as a metaphor for socio-political power, while others explore more personal iterations of loss, but all the poets in *The Daughter's Way* seek to redefine daughterly duty in a contemporary context by challenging elegiac tradition through questions of genre and gender.

Beginning with psychoanalytical theories of filiation, inheritance, and mourning as they are complicated by feminist challenges to theories of kinship and citizenship, *The Daughter's Way* debates the efficacy of the literary "work of mourning" in twentieth-century Canadian poetry. By investigating the way a daughter's filial piety performs and sometimes reconfigures such work, and situating melancholia as a creative force in women's elegies, the book considers how elegies inquire into the rhetoric of mourning as it is complicated by father–daughter kinship.

Tanis MacDonald is an associate professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. She is the author of three books of poetry, most recently *Rue the Day* (Turnstone Press, 2008), and the editor of *Speaking of Power: The Poetry of Di Brandt* (WLU Press, 2006).



WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY PRESS

facebook.com/wlupress | twitter.com/wlupress
toll-free 1-866-836-5551 | www.wlupress.wlu.ca