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Sean Johnston

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THE DITCH WAS LIT LIKE THIS

SEAN JOHNSTON

“Poetry is the closest thing to silence, which alone on earth is as close as we can get to heaven.”
— from “The Ditch Was Lit Like This”

This is Sean Johnston’s return to the roots — ancestral and poetic — that have shaped his language and his consciousness. Structured in five sections, the work interplays the convergence of memory and personal history. Although such a pattern is familiar ground in the world of poetry, Johnston’s movements to establish roots through his use of the anecdotal, unexpected, and profound are both wise and revealing. We are invited to that universal moment where “there is always a man with a guitar/ somewhere/ and the response is either love returned or love withheld — that is, of course, if something has been risked.”

SEAN JOHNSTON grew up in Asquith, Saskatchewan and received his Bachelor of Journalism degree from Carleton University in Ottawa. His early influences were Roger Bird, Christopher Levenson, and Robert Hogg. His later work shows an affinity for Canadian icons like Guy Vanderhaeghe and Leonard Cohen. Sean has been at Okanagan College for the last four years, teaching composition, literature and creative writing. He has worked as a journalist and is the author of the novel *All This Town Remembers* (Gaspereau 2006), and the story collection *A Day Does Not Go By* (Nightwood 2002). Johnston lives in Vernon, BC.



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