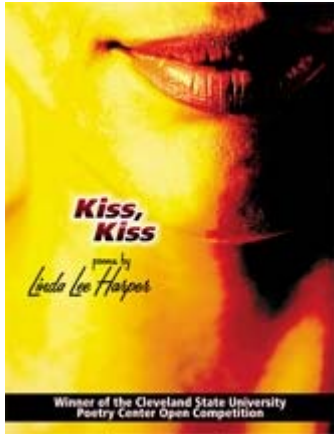


Cleveland State University

Poetry Center / Department of English
2121 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2214
Telephone: 216-687-3968 FAX: 216-687-6943
888-278-6473 (toll-free)

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 31, 2008
Contact: Rita Grabowski
poetrycenter@csuohio.edu



Now Available

Kiss, Kiss

poems by **Linda Lee Harper**

Winner of the 2007 Cleveland State University

Poetry Center Open Competition

8.5 x 6.5 x 0.267, 94 pp., \$15.95 paper,

ISBN 978-1-880834-78-7, LCCN 2008007236

The poems in *Kiss, Kiss* aspire, with feistiness and wit, to isolate, reclaim, memorialize, and reexamine those significant but ordinary longings, daydreams, people, and locations we too often take for granted: a pheasant hunt, a bowl of oranges, a trip to a waffle house, “the fish shuddering / at the end of the neighbor’s / nylon line,” “yellow butterflies hiccupping / through air as beautifully/as answered prayers,” and “Aunt Avis, silly goose of an aunt, / doing bicycles on our bed to show us / how to speed into heaven.”

Using the South’s lush landscapes—a Carolina lake retreat, a grove of magnolia trees—as their settings, these poems, in a crisp and accessible voice, celebrate family, talk frankly about loss, desire, and healing, mourn for those no longer with us, and find, in the mundane, that which is truly marvelous and transcendent. Linda Lee Harper’s latest book is a vital contribution to the literature of a distinctly 21st-century, easily recognizable South. Why these poems? Writes Harper, “The sun will burn itself out / and the only thing in a hurry / is me, painting it all in // as fast as I can/before the sun blinks / and day vanishes almost / like an image on plasma screens // failing to erase completely, digital / ghost, visual echo, intaglio, light.”

“Reading *Kiss, Kiss* is like waking up in a strange bed with a new tattoo. These poems ride close to the skin, and generate their own heat. Linda Lee Harper takes us from the haunting familiarity of “Summer, humid as an old aunt’s apartment when she boils the fat out of ham,” to the electric pleasure of “the beautiful boys on the avenue, / parading, winking hips at my hips.” It’s as if Harper has reclaimed all of the memories we’ve hidden beneath our mattresses, and repopulated them in a world that is at once alien and intimate. These are poems that demand a visceral response. Thankfully for the reader, they will not wash off.”

—**Mary Biddinger, author of *Prairie Fever* and editor of *Barn Owl Review***

“To read Linda Lee Harper’s *Kiss, Kiss* is to escape into another striking and memorable world, while never feeling as if you’ve completely left the familiar behind. Her poems are filled with the imagery of ordinary life, and yet these images are often slightly off-kilter and unexpected, so what emerges in these poems is honest, and sometimes uncomfortable. Harper’s poems remind us of our common desire to build connections among ourselves, to honor the singularity of the places we come from and the quirks of the people we love.”

—**Margot Schilpp, author of *Laws of My Nature***

“In an era when poets often seem to want to mention in passing that they know a street name in Budapest or an art piece in the museum at Fez, Linda Lee Harper gracefully—sometimes humorously—returns us to the world of people and places we know. *Kiss, Kiss* is our lives—our neighbors, aunts, lovers, our work and recreation—where we find good and bad, and muddle through somehow. ‘Oh yes,’ we say poem after poem, ‘I had forgotten.’ What a delight these living poems are.”

—**Paul E. Allen, author of *Ground Forces* and *American Crawl***

“Playful, regretful, she abandons any pretense at self-abnegation and wallows in the world: her ‘voice asking for seconds, gluttony’s theme song.’ The poems in *Kiss, Kiss* detail an insouciant, imagistic life revealed in and recorded with just a tang of wryness, ‘gentle as an adder licking a wound.’”

—Susan Grimm, author of *Lake Erie Blue*

and editor of *Ordering the Storm: How to Put Together a Book of Poems*

Linda Lee Harper divides her time between Batesburg-Leesville, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia. Born in Cincinnati and educated at the University of Pittsburgh, where she received her MFA in Poetry, she is the author of five poetry chapbooks and one previous full-length collection, *Toward Desire* (Word Works, 1996), winner of the 1995 Washington Prize for Poetry. Her poems have previously appeared in such journals as *The Georgia Review*, *Rattle*, *Seneca Review*, and *Southern Humanities Review*, and have been recognized with fellowship residencies at Yaddo and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. For more information, visit the author’s website at www.LindaLeeHarper.com.

ORDERING INFORMATION: *Kiss, Kiss* is available through many corporate and independent bookstores, as well as Amazon.com. Media review copies and requests for printed catalogs should be directed to Poetry Center Manager, Rita Grabowski at 216-687-3986, toll-free 888-278-6473.

###