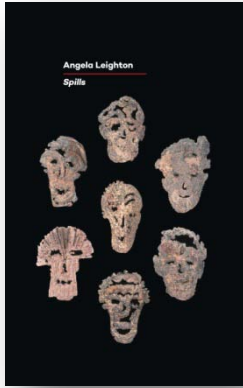


# Angela Leighton

## Spills



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*'Outstanding among the excellent ... the poems ring like bells'* - Anne Stevenson

*This is one of those rare books that you know will become a kind of touchstone. It's an unlikely and fetching combination of prose fragments – memories, reflections, personal excavation, stories, travel – and poetry of astonishing grace and spiritual depth. Angela Leighton is among the finest poets at work today in the language, a truth evident in these tangible, philosophical, anguished, ecstatic poems. There is nothing quite like this in the world, which is what makes it art. I will read and reread Spills, and hope it attracts the many readers it deserves. - Jay Parini*

A collection of new poems, memoirs, short stories and translations of Italian poetry, which tells, obliquely and semi-fictionally, the story of the author's life as daughter of a composer father and an Italian mother. While the prose is autobiographical, the poems are not, though they are tangentially related to the prose, touching, as they do, on place and language, war and peace, the landscape of southern Italy and the Christian story of the Passion. The book tells of a life split between different languages, different places, and lived among some strangely memorable characters. It is not about the author, but about the influences that go to shape a life – maybe anyone's life. Moreover, it is a book which challenges the boundaries of genre, like other boundaries that define identity, by mixing memoir, short story, prose poem, libretto, translation, as well as poetry proper. The points of connection between them are a reminder that writing of all kinds is, at some level, a composition set to music. And while this is, in part, a story about music, it is also a search for music in the language we use.

**Angela Leighton** was born in Wakefield, educated in Edinburgh and Oxford, and has taught at the universities of Hull and Cambridge. She is Research Fellow in poetry at Trinity College, Cambridge and has published many works of literary criticism, poetry and short stories. Her three previous collections of poetry are *A Cold Spell* (2000), *Sea Level* (2007), and *The Messages* (2012).

### **\*\*SPECIAL PRE- LAUNCH OFFER UNTIL FEBRUARY 26th\*\***

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