



CAROLINA WREN PRESS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carolina Wren Press announces the publication of:

breath of the song

NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

BY

Jaki Shelton Green

ISBN 0-932112-49-8

\$14.95 paperback, 136pp.

Review copies available August 20th, 2005

Official Release: 2pm, November 20th, 2005 at the Regulator Bookshop, Durham, NC



Jaki Shelton Green received the North Carolina Award for Literature in 2003 for her fine poetry and “inveterate championing of the underdog.” Her poetry has appeared in publications such as *The Crucible*, *The African-American Review*, *Obsidian*, *Ms.* and *Essence*. Her previous books are *Dead on Arrival*, *Conjure Blues*, and *singing a tree into dance*. She lives in Mebane, NC..

“Jaki Shelton Green is North Carolina’s Billie Holliday. Her *breath of the song* issues from a persona that unflinchingly peers into the heart of darkness and foreboding and forges from it, in an inimitable idiom of folk, plain-speak and dazzling soul, a relentless belief that love and ancestry always prevail over heartache, that story is more important than recrimination, that language, above all, is a sacrament.” —JOSEPH BATHANTI

“Jaki Shelton Green writes gut-true spirituals, heart-pure rap. Her red-black-and-blue poems give tang to your tongue, breath to your lungs. Beauty isn’t beautiful until she eyes it and sighs it; History isn’t real until she weighs it and says it. She’s got the soulful funk of Henry Dumas and Ntozake Shange; she knows the blues of Alice Walker and Millie Jackson. Because politicians lie, preachers go bad, and philosophers can’t talk sense, who you gonna call for the Truth? You need a (real) poet. You need to read Jaki Shelton Green.”

—GEORGE ELLIOTT CLARKE

“Jaki Shelton Green brings her emotional landscape and our socio-political environment together on the territory of the body. These poems are beautifully, terribly alive—they will pump her blood into your veins. Read them and learn how to see in the dark.”

—EVIE SHOCKLEY

About the press: Carolina Wren Press publishes poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and children’s books (under its Lollipop Power imprint). As our mission (*new authors, new audiences*) suggests, the Press is committed to an ever-growing vision of the audience for, and the producers of, contemporary literature.



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