

# Ravenous Words

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IN THESE TUMULTUOUS TIMES, POETRY BRIDGES BORDERS, CREATES CONNECTIONS, AND IMPARTS IDEAS. Writers Lisa Lucas and Susan J. Wurtzburg whispered words and shouted stanzas to each other by text and voice across the geographical expanses of Canada, the USA, and the Pacific Ocean. Their collaboration was adorned later by paired ravens, the cover print created by James Lahey, a noted Canadian artist, living in Toronto.

This raven motif glides through the book sections and their poetry, with connections to the idea of being ravenous, insatiable, and greedy, all of which contrast to the socially-normed perceptions of women. It also links to the long history of strong female writers, hungry for expression, who were largely disparaged and outcast from less contemporaneous poetry histories. Here, the title and poetic content connect these tropes in innovative ways that speak to people in the Americas and Pacific, where most of these works are situated.

### About the Authors



**Susan J. Wurtzburg** retired from an academic career at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and now lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her poetry is grounded in the USA and Canada, where she was born, with some pieces set in Central and South America, where she worked as an archaeologist. In addition to sense of place, her literary output focuses on gender, ethnicity, and the environment. Wurtzburg received 1st place in the Land of Enchantment Award, and the Save Our Earth Award (National Federation of State Poetry Societies), 2024; as well as the Elizabeth M. Campbell Poetry Award (National League of American Pen Women), 2022. She was a semi-finalist in the *Crab Creek Review* Poetry Competition 2022, and in the *Naugatuck River Review's* 14th Narrative Poetry Contest, 2022. Wurtzburg was a Community Poet in the Spring 2023 Poetry Workshop, Westminster College, Salt Lake City. She is a Commissioned Artist in *Sidewalk Poetry: Senses of Salt Lake City*, 2024; and serves as an Associate Poetry Editor with *Poets Reading the News*. [www.susanwurtzburg.com](http://www.susanwurtzburg.com).



**Lisa Lucas** began her career writing for magazines and newspapers. Later, she wrote extensively on issues related to literacy and health that were featured in publications by the Canadian Public Health Association, several literacy organizations, and hospitals across Canada. She is the recipient of the CIBC Children's Miracle Maker Award for advancing literacy among people with special needs. Several years ago, Lisa partnered with Laurie Stein, an illustrator, and began writing for children covering subjects from climate change to refugees. Their work has been recognized by *The New York Times*, *Kirkus Reviews* (starred), *Publishers Weekly*, and more. Their books have been translated into several languages and are widely recognized throughout Canada and the US. More recently, Lisa has turned her attention to poetry and historical fiction. She has had the privilege of collaborating with John Kapelos, Steve Landsberg, Balaji Swaminath, and of course Susan Wurtzburg on this anthology. [lusalucas.ca](http://lusalucas.ca)

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