



# Chaudiere Books

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## On *Tatterdemalion*

The book opens with a scene from the fabled town of *Blue*, a failed community. A place stuck in time. A colony of lunatics. *Plenty* represents the shifts in society and its nefarious arc: Christianity, the beneficiaries of the industrial revolution, the advent of product branding to the economic boom of the 1980s. Sadly, *More* is the result of too much greed, addiction and self-indulgence. *We bury our dead like we bury out towns.*

What follows, in one way or the other, inevitably circles back to the towns of *Blue*, *Plenty*, and *More*. The poems are a philosophical commentary on society as seen through the eyes of Patience, an inhabitant of Blue, as she journeys from home. What she discovers isn't exactly the happiness she had hoped for, but, rather a world fraught with anxiety and complicated forms of devotion. *A legitimacy to despise our opposites.*

People are suspicious by nature—voodoo, spells, unexplained deaths. There were enough crosses in the old days to nail every sinner twice to its wood. Children sexually abused by their caregivers. The trauma is too much burden for their small bones to carry. The 1900s saw youngsters shoved into chimneys and coalmines to work, and yet upon their deaths they were immortalized in funeral photographs. *Good money spent on a picture for the mantel.*

Like it or not we are all tethered to antiquity and science, neither of which seems to have advanced our humanity much over the years. For the most part we say we want common good, but we also want autonomy whilst our finger is pressed firmly against the trigger. So, where does the *Tatterdemalion* fit in? *In the hearts of innocent children lost to the wreckage of time.*