



New Release from Plain View Press



No Honey for Wild Beasts

By Alba Cruz-Hacker

Book description: A collection of poems by a Hispano-Caribbean author, exploring contemporary socio-political issues, including cultural hybridity and bilingualism, racial and ethnic allegiances and designations, oppression, feminist issues, and more. With careful attention to the music of the line, these poems are rich in imagery and metaphor, exhibiting a multivocality, a polyrhythmic aesthetic with echoes of the luscious amalgam that is the Caribbean region. The book is comprised of 88 pages and is divided into three sections subtitled: “Fangs,” “Claws” and “Horns.” The cover art is a painting titled “Chromatic Jungle” by the internationally renowned Dominican artist, Amaya Salazar.

About the author: The Dominican-American, Alba Cruz-Hacker, straddles borders. A Pushcart Prize nominee, she was the recipient of the 2007 UCR Poet Laureate Award and the 2007 Thomas Rivera Selection for Poetry. She has lived throughout North and Central America and the Caribbean, but has been residing in California for the past 18 years. Her creative and academic work has been published throughout the Caribbean, Canada and the United States, both in print and on the web, including *Poetry Magazine* (Senior Editor’s Choice), *The Caribbean Writer*, *Canadian Woman Studies*, *Spillway Review*, *Pacific Review*, *Bear Flag Republic: Prose Poems and Poetics from California* (anthology edited by Gary Young), and the Hispanic volume of the *American Encyclopedia of Ethnic Literature*, among others. She teaches creative writing at the University of California Riverside.

Praise for No Honey for Wild Beasts:

In “Update on Leda and the Swan,” Alba Cruz-Hacker begins, “A kick-ass blow: a giant wing’s turned weak,/ trapped by the heel of a patent leather boot,” turning both Yeats and Zeus on their heads in a sonnet as wisely parodic as it is elegantly composed. It is tempting, therefore, to call “kick-ass” the impressive debut by this Dominican-American poet, but that would hardly serve the range and richness of a collection by turns earthy and polished, angry and meditative, confessional and political, sensual and acutely intellectual. *No Honey for Wild Beasts* is a complete and stunning accomplishment in itself, but it is also radiant with the promise of a brilliant career for Alba Cruz-Hacker.

–**B. H. Fairchild**, author of *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest* and *The Art of the Lathe*

Additional Praise for NHFWB:

No Honey for Wild Beasts is an anthem, heart song, lamentation, and freedom cry. In skillfully wrought, passionate, and searingly honest poems, Alba Cruz-Hacker explores the exaltations of women's experiences, as well as exposing their darker depths. As a woman "straddling" several cultures, she confronts the painful legacies of colonial rule and racism. She also pays homage to the struggles of disempowered individuals in China, the Middle East, and elsewhere, who fight for equality, justice, and humane treatment. Though she perceives herself as a "hybrid," Cruz-Hacker is truly a borderless Everywoman, a poet extending Walt Whitman's democratized vision and Derek Walcott's moral compass and lush Caribbean lyricism. With her rage and outrage, tenderness and vulnerability, devastating insight and luminous mythologizing, her presence in contemporary letters is one we need like a life raft. Her poetry takes us to uncharted territory, to islands of turbulent discovery and ultimate recovery.

–**Maurya Simon**, author of *Ghost Orchid* and *Speaking in Tongues*

Alba Cruz-Hacker writes with a fierce aesthetic and a compassionate engagement with the world. The journey these poems invite you on is necessary and compelling.

–**Chris Abani**, author of *Kalakuta Republic* and *Song For Night*



Alba Cruz-Hacker

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www.plainviewpress.net/gallery2/pages/NoHoneyforWildBeasts.htm

To view additional work by the Dominican artist Amaya Salazar, please visit:

www.amayasalazar.com./english/index.html