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## Swann Carol Shields

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### Dressing Up for the Carnival Penguin

With a viewpoint that shifts as crisply as cards in the hands of a blackjack dealer, Carol Shields introduces us to two shell-shocked veterans of the wars of the heart. There's Fay, a folklorist whose passion for mermaids has kept her from focusing on any one man. And right across the street there's Tom, a popular radio talk-show host who has focused a little too intently, having married and divorced three times. Can Fay believe in lasting love with such a man? Will romantic love conquer all rational expectations? Only Carol Shields could describe so adroitly this couple who fall in love as thoroughly and satisfyingly as any Victorian couple and the modern complications that beset them in this touching and ironic book.

### Carol Shields and the Writer-Critic Vintage Canada

Carol Shields, best known for her fiction writing, received both the Pulitzer Prize and the Governor

General 's Award for Fiction for her novel *The Stone Diaries*. But she also wrote hundreds of poems over the span of her career. The *Collected Poetry of Carol Shields* includes three previously published collections and over eighty unpublished poems, ranging from the early 1970s to Shields 's death in 2003. In a detailed introduction and commentary, Nora Foster Stovel contextualizes these poems against the background of Shields 's life and oeuvre and the traditions of twentieth-century poetry. She demonstrates how poetry influenced and informed Shields 's novels; many of the poems, which constitute miniature narratives, illuminate Shields 's fiction and serve as the testing ground for metaphors she later employed in her prose works. Stovel delineates Shields 's career-long interest in character and setting, gender and class, self and other, actuality and numinousness, as well as revealing her subversive feminism, which became explicit in *Reta Winter 's angry (unsent)*

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letters in *Unless* and in the stories of poet Mary Swann and Daisy Goodwill in *Swann and The Stone Diaries*. The first complete collection of her poetry, this volume is essential for all readers of Carol Shields. Stovel's detailed annotations, based on research in the Carol Shields fonds at Library and Archives Canada, reveal the poems in all their depth and resonance, and the dignity and consequence they afford to ordinary people.

*Susanna Moodie* Harper Collins  
Here are twenty-four hilarious poems about school, where all kinds of unexpected things happen. From an unusual pledge of allegiance and jungle gym gossip to recess rules and the rules of addition, Carol Diggory Shields captures the experiences of schoolgoers with wit and verve. This rollicking collection is sure to keep readers laughing until summer vacation. A frisky collection.... Kids will greet the poems with enthusiasm. School Library Journal  
Carol Diggory Shields and Paul Meisel also collaborated on *I Am Really a Princess* (Dutton and Puffin) and *I Wish My Brother Was a Dog* (Dutton). Carol Diggory Shields lives in Salinas, California. Paul Meisel lives in Newtown, Connecticut.

*The Collected Poetry of Carol Shields* Vintage Canada

This is the story of a married couple, Jocelyn and Charles, and their self-imposed separation

of 10 months when Jock accepts a job in a city more than a thousand miles away from her family.

*Small Ceremonies* HarperCollins UK  
Award-winning Canadian writer Carol Shields has garnered praise from scholars and an international audience of readers. Inspired by the quality and scope of Shields's work, *Carol Shields, Narrative Hunger, and the Possibilities of Fiction* addresses her creative exploration of postmodernism. As the first thorough examination of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, this collection of essays establishes the groundwork for future studies of her oeuvre. The collection begins with a significant new essay from Shields herself, 'Narrative Hunger and the Overflowing Cupboard,' perhaps her most substantial commentary upon her own aims as a writer. In addition, scholars from Canada, England, the United States, and Australia explore the complexity of Shields's work and her contributions to the genre of the novel. These lively essays reflect Shields's verve and her playful approach to today's sophisticated critical thinking. Among the topics are Shields's use of biography and autobiography, metafiction, popular romance, and symbolism. While the essays foreground the unreliability of language, and hence our inability to know one another or even ourselves, the contributors argue that Shields has taken a step beyond postmodernism by suggesting that we can transcend the limitations of its epistemology. Containing several essays on *Swann and The Stone Diaries*, Shields's most popular works, and the most extensive annotated bibliography available of works by and about Shields, this collection will appeal widely to scholars, students, and readers of Carol Shields and Canadian fiction.

**Thirteen Hands And Other Plays**

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Vintage Canada

“Unless you’re lucky, unless you’re healthy, fertile, unless you’re loved and fed, unless you’re offered what others are offered, you go down in the darkness, down to despair.” Reta Winters has many reasons to be happy: Her three almost grown daughters. Her twenty-year relationship with their father. Her work translating the larger-than-life French intellectual and feminist Danielle Westerman. Her modest success with a novel of her own, and the clamour of her American publisher for a sequel. Then in the spring of her forty-fourth year, all the quiet satisfactions of her well-lived life disappear in a moment: her eldest daughter Norah suddenly runs from the family and ends up mute and begging on a Toronto street corner, with a hand-lettered sign reading GOODNESS around her neck. GOODNESS. With the inconceivable loss of her daughter like a lump in her throat, Reta tackles the mystery of this message. What in this world has broken Norah, and what could bring her back to the provisional safety of home? Reta’s wit is the weapon she most often brandishes as she kicks against the pricks that have brought her daughter down: Carol Shields brings us Reta’s voice in all its poignancy, outrage and droll humour. Piercing and sad, astute and evocative, full of tenderness and laughter, Unless will stand with *The Stone Diaries* in the canon of Carol Shields’s fiction.

**The PowerBook** McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER •  
NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS

OF THE YEAR BY SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, THE HUFFINGTON POST, AND SHELF AWARENESS • “In *Hausfrau*, *Anna Karenina* goes Fifty Shades with a side of *Madame Bovary*.”—Time “A debut novel about Anna, a bored housewife who, like her Tolstoyan namesake, throws herself into a psychosexual journey of self-discovery and tragedy.”—O: The Oprah Magazine “Sexy and insightful, this gorgeously written novel opens a window into one woman’s desperate soul.”—People Anna was a good wife, mostly. For readers of *The Girl on the Train* and *The Woman Upstairs* comes a striking debut novel of marriage, fidelity, sex, and morality, featuring a fascinating heroine who struggles to live a life with meaning. Anna Benz, an American in her late thirties, lives with her Swiss husband, Bruno—a banker—and their three young children in a postcard-perfect suburb of Zürich. Though she leads a comfortable, well-appointed life, Anna is falling apart inside. Adrift and increasingly unable to connect with the emotionally unavailable Bruno or even with her own thoughts and feelings, Anna tries to rouse herself with new experiences: German language classes, Jungian analysis, and a series of sexual affairs she enters with an ease that surprises even her. But Anna can’t easily extract herself from these affairs. When she wants to end them, she finds it’s difficult. Tensions escalate, and her lies start to spin out of control. Having crossed a moral threshold, Anna will discover where a woman goes when there is no going back. Intimate, intense, and written with the precision of a Swiss Army knife, Jill

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Alexander Essbaum's debut novel is an unforgettable story of marriage, fidelity, sex, morality, and most especially self. Navigating the lines between lust and love, guilt and shame, excuses and reasons, Anna Benz is an electrifying heroine whose passions and choices readers will debate with recognition and fury. Her story reveals, with honesty and great beauty, how we create ourselves and how we lose ourselves and the sometimes disastrous choices we make to find ourselves. Praise for *Hausfrau* "Elegant . . . There is much to admire in Essbaum's intricately constructed, meticulously composed novel, including its virtuosic intercutting of past and present."—Chicago Tribune "For a first novelist, Essbaum is extraordinary because she is a poet. Her language is meticulous and resonant and daring."—NPR's Weekend Edition "We're in literary territory as familiar as Anna's name, but Essbaum makes it fresh with sharp prose and psychological insight."—San Francisco Chronicle "This marvelously quiet book is psychologically complex and deeply intimate. . . . One of the smartest novels in recent memory."—The Dallas Morning News "Essbaum's poignant, shocking debut novel rivets."—Us Weekly "A powerful, lyrical novel . . . *Hausfrau* boasts taut pacing and melodrama, but also a fully realized heroine as love-hateable as Emma Bovary."—The Huffington Post "Imagine Tom Perrotta's *American Nowheresville* swapped out for a tidy Zürich suburb, sprinkled liberally with sharp riffs on Swiss-German grammar and European hypocrisy."—New York

## A Celibate Season National Geographic Books

Carol Shields's award-winning and critically acclaimed "literary mystery," first published in 1987. *Swann* is the story of four individuals who become entwined in the life of Mary Swann, a rural Canadian poet whose authentic and unique voice is discovered only hours before her husband hacks her to pieces. Who is Mary Swann? And how could she have produced these works of genius in almost complete isolation? Mysteriously, all traces of Swann's existence — her notebook, the first draft of her work, even her photograph — gradually vanish as the characters in this engrossing novel become caught up in their own concepts of who Mary Swann was.

### *The Box Garden* Fawcett

Throughout her literary and critical career, Canadian writer Carol Shields (1935–2003) resisted simple categorization. Her novels are elegant puzzles that confront the reader with the ambiguity of meaning and narrative, yet their position within Shields' critical feminist project has, until now, been obscured. In *Carol Shields and the Writer-Critic*, Brenda Beckman-Long illuminates that project through the study of Shields' extensive oeuvre, including her fiction and criticism. Beckman-Long brings depth to her analysis through close readings of six novels, including the award-winning *The Stone Diaries*. Elliptical, open-ended, and concerned with women writing about women, these novels reveal Shields' critique of dominant masculine discourses and her deep engagement with the long tradition of women's life writing. Beckman-Long's original archival research attests to Shields' preoccupation with the changing efforts of waves of feminist activism and

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writing. A much needed reappraisal of Shields's innovative work, *Carol Shields and the Writer-Critic* contributes to the scholarship on life writing and autobiography, literary criticism, and feminist and critical theory.

*A Fairly Conventional Woman* McGill-Queen's Press - MQUP

An critical examination of the work of the Canadian writer Susanna Moodie including analysis of *Life in the Clearings*, *Roughing It in the Bush*, *Waiting for Dead Men's Shoes*, and *Matrimonial Speculations*.

*The Republic of Love* Anchor

Carol Shields, best known for her fiction writing, received both the Pulitzer Prize and the Governor General's Award for Fiction for her novel *The Stone Diaries*. But she also wrote hundreds of poems over the span of her career. *The Collected Poetry of Carol Shields* includes three previously published collections and over eighty unpublished poems, ranging from the early 1970s to Shields's death in 2003. In a detailed introduction and commentary, Nora Foster Stovel contextualizes these poems against the background of Shields's life and oeuvre and the traditions of twentieth-century poetry. She demonstrates how poetry influenced and informed Shields's novels; many of the poems, which constitute miniature narratives, illuminate Shields's fiction and serve as the testing ground for metaphors she later employed in her prose works. Stovel delineates Shields's career-long interest in character and setting, gender and class, self and other, actuality and numinousness, as well as revealing her subversive feminism, which became explicit in Reta Winter's angry (unsent) letters in *Unless* and in the stories of poet Mary Swann and Daisy Goodwill in *Swann* and *The Stone Diaries*. The first complete

collection of her poetry, this volume is essential for all readers of Carol Shields. Stovel's detailed annotations, based on research in the Carol Shields fonds at Library and Archives Canada, reveal the poems in all their depth and resonance, and the dignity and consequence they afford to ordinary people.

*Swann*. Portuguese Blizzard Pub Limited  
Until events run wildly out of hand, Charleen Forrest manages to cope with the uncertainties of a failed marriage, trying to live her own life and raise a son on her frugal income. She is not unaware of the hazards: "family, banktellers, ex-husband, landladies, bus drivers... men on the make who want her to lie back and accept (this is what you need, baby), friends who feel sorry for her." Her resourcefulness is a delight; her uncanny observations and surprising irony reveal a witty, wry edge that is apt to make you laugh out loud.

*Two Scenes of Women's Writing*  
Vintage Canada

With a Foreword by the Author "Before becoming a playwright I was a novelist, and one who was often impatient with the requisite description of weather or scenery or even with the business of moving people from room to room. I was more interested in the sound of people talking to each other, reacting to each other, or leaving silences for others to fall into." -- Carol Shields  
From one of Canada's most beloved authors comes a collection of four works written for the stage, including her most popular and highly acclaimed play *Thirteen Hands*. The theatrical form allows Carol Shields' strength as a master of dialogue to shine at its brightest, as she returns to themes she explores in her prose: love, family, friendship, and the hidden meanings

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and larger truths found beneath the surface of the minutiae of daily life. *Thirteen Hands and Other Plays* is an exhilarating introduction to Shields' considerable achievements as a playwright. *Departures and Arrivals* (1990) dramatizes how lives are heightened and enlarged when taken within the frame of public spaces -- airports, train stations, public streets -- so that we all become, in a sense, actors. *Thirteen Hands* (1993), a musical, valorizes a consistently overlooked group in our society, "the blue-rinse set" -- also known as "the white glove brigade" or "the bridge club biddies" -- and has had the strongest professional run of all Shields' plays. *Fashion, Power, Guilt and the Charity of Families* (1995), written with her daughter, Catherine Shields, interrogates the ambivalence felt towards families, the drive we all share to find or create some kind of family, and the equally strong desire to escape the family's fury. *Anniversary* (1998), written with Dave Williamson, is a domestic drama of discontented, middle class suburbanites. One couple in the play are married and pretending to be close to separation. Another couple, who are separated, are pretending to be married. The additional irony is that the separated couple are still emotionally together, while the married couple have already emotionally separated.

*The Girls at 17 Swann Street* St. Martin's Press

"Shields writes with an almost painfully attuned ear for the nuances of language and the way they attach to feelings and probe the most delicate layers of human

consciousness. . . . She reminds us again why literature matters." — New York Times Book Review With an Introduction by Margaret Atwood With the profound maturity and exquisite eye for detail that never failed to capture readers of her critically acclaimed novels, Carol Shields, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Stone Diaries*, dazzles with these remarkable stories. Generous, delightful, and acutely observed, this essential collection illuminates the miracles that grace our lives; it will continue to enchant for years to come.

**Duet** Vintage Canada

To her neighbors, Mary Swann was a simple, hardworking farm wife; her delicate poems are discovered only after she is brutally murdered. The strange, evocative verses attract the attention of an earnestly self-absorbed feminist scholar, a pompous literary biographer, a virginal small-town librarian, and a curmudgeonly retired newspaper editor. But as interest increases, all traces of Swann's existence--her notebook, the first draft of her work, even her photograph--mysteriously vanish. In solving the puzzle of Swann's disappearing legacy, Carol Shields explores the larger mysteries of the nature of art, as well as the powerful forces that motivate us all.

*Swann* Random House

*Swann* Vintage Canada

**El Secreto de Mary Swann** Borealis

Eighteen years old and completely alone, Rosemary arrives in New York from Tasmania with little other than her love of books and an eagerness to explore the city. Taking a job at a vast, chaotic emporium of used and rare books called the Arcade, she knows she has found a home. But when Rosemary reads a letter from

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someone seeking to “place” a lost manuscript by Herman Melville, the bookstore erupts with simmering ambitions and rivalries. Including actual correspondence by Melville, *The Secret of Lost Things* is at once a literary adventure and evocative portrait of a young woman making a life for herself in the city.

#### I Am Really a Princess Swann

A stunning special edition hardcover of Carol Shields's award-winning and critically acclaimed "literary mystery," first published in 1987. "Swann is the story of four individuals who become entwined in the life of Mary Swann, a rural Canadian poet whose authentic and unique voice is discovered only hours before her husband hacks her to pieces. Who is Mary Swann? And how could she have produced these works of genius in almost complete isolation? Mysteriously, all traces of Swann's existence--her notebook, the first draft of her work, even her photograph--gradually vanish as the characters in this engrossing novel become caught up in their own concepts of who Mary Swann was.

#### Random Illuminations Vintage Canada

The lives of four amazingly different individuals become intertwined with that of Mary Swann, a rural Canadian poet of delicate verse whose genuine talent is only discovered after she is brutally murdered.

#### *Hausfrau* University of Toronto Press

Newly appointed police inspector Domenic Jejeune doesn't mind ruffling a few feathers to flush out suspects in the brutal murder of a renowned ecological activist. 2015 Arthur Ellis Award — Winner, Best First Novel • Globe and Mail 100: Best Books of 2014 • 2015 Kobo Emerging Writer Prize — Shortlisted, Best Mystery Inspector Domenic Jejeune's success has made him a poster boy for the U.K. police service. The problem is Jejeune doesn't

really want to be a detective at all; he much prefers watching birds. Recently reassigned to the small Norfolk town of Saltmarsh, located in the heart of Britain's premier birding country, Jejeune's two worlds collide when he investigates the grisly murder of a prominent ecological activist. His ambitious police superintendent foresees a blaze of welcome publicity, but she begins to have her doubts when Jejeune's most promising theory involves a feud over birdwatching lists. A second murder only complicates matters. To unravel this mystery, Jejeune must deal with unwelcome public acclaim, the mistrust of colleagues, and his own insecurities. In the case of the Saltmarsh birder murders, the victims may not be the only casualties.