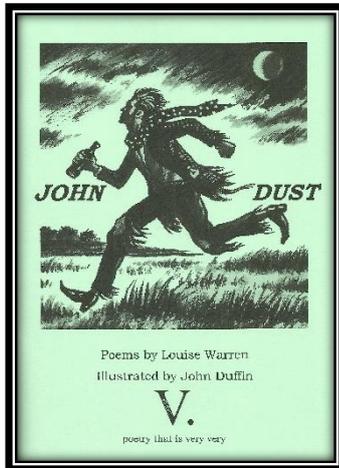


# *John Dust*



*John Dust*  
poems by Louise Warren  
illustrated by John Duffin

V. Press  
ISBN: 978-1-9165052-8-5

36 pages

R.R.P. £6.50

## ABOUT THE PAMPHLET

“Louise Warren uses grief as an artist uses a sharpened pencil to delicately illustrate that what we leave, we inevitably return to whether through memories or myth. Nature and Death are dancing partners in this beautifully moving collection of poems which explore the idea of roots in family and place. An earthy reverence combined with the keenest observation brings Somerset alive from the ashes of the past. Here, we find apples, owls, folklore, riddles, hedgerows, all linked by the character of John Dust, who is so much more than mere mortality: “I will be your Silhouette, your Diplomat, your Compass” (‘Swifts’). Indeed, the footnote lets us know that these are all caravans. We are in sympathetic imaginative territory to Jacob Polley’s award-winning *Jackself* where the reader is engaged and often lulled, only to be taken by surprise. It could be argued this how the process of bereavement works – you think you have arrived at a certain point, only to be off-balanced, but the sense of re-discovery of something lost in these poems, is a joyous reclamation. Many of the poems have found recognition in poetry competitions, but this is more than a collection of standout poems; it is the whole that makes it remarkable. The pamphlet is also illustrated with fine drawings by the artist, John Duffin, which match Warren’s words with their deft yet delicate strokes and serve to highlight the wistful strength of this collection.” **Lisa Kelly**

“Riddles and rhythms weave the wonderful spell of *John Dust* – Louise Warren’s original Somerset legend is a brilliant feat of imagination, and will leave you wanting more stories of this mythical man and his exquisitely off-kilter world.” **Kate Garrett**

Like a character from a contemporary Somerset folktale, *John Dust* is very atmospheric and very bewitching.

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*poetry that is very very*  
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## ABOUT THE POET

LOUISE WARREN was born and grew up in the West Country and now lives in London. With a background in theatre, her first collection *A Child's Last Picture Book of the Zoo* won the Cinnamon Press debut poetry competition and was published in 2012. A pamphlet *In the scullery with John Keats*, also published by Cinnamon, came out in 2016. Her poems have been widely published in magazines including *Ambit*, *The Rialto*, *Poetry Wales* and *Stand*. In 2018 she won first prize in the Prole Laureate Poetry Competition with her poem 'The Marshes', which appears in *John Dust*.



## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR



JOHN DUFFIN is a painter and printmaker based in London. Over a 35-year career he has held over 60 one-man shows of his work and won many awards including 'Best Printmaker' award from Sir Peter Blake. His work is in many public and private collections including Museum of London, V&A, Ashmolean Oxford, Fitzwilliam Cambridge and his work was recently added to the Royal Collection of the Queen.



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