Reviews:

**Farm: Lot 23**

*These are sharp poems, composed with enormous thought and care, composed as both portrait and a love letter to an eroding space. …*

*Lailey offers such a soft and subtle music articulating a working farm from the inside, not merely as reminiscence but contemporary, working and lived-in space. There’s a thickness, a density, to her detail, one that embraces the lyric but carves the lines so precisely to hold all that is required, but without sacrificing her music. She writes a precision to her lushness, on seasonal crops of cherries, peaches, pears and plums.*

—Rob McLennan, Rob McLennan’s Blog, Saturday August 3, 2024

Full review here: <https://robmclennan.blogspot.com/2024/08/tonya-lailey-farm-lot-23.html#:~:text=There's%20a%20thickness%2C%20a%20density,%2C%20peaches%2C%20pears%20and%20plums.>

*Farm:Lot 23 is a poet’s book of poetry. What I mean by that is that poets who read it will revel in Lailey’s focused playfulness with the craft. Her writing is very specific, and all the ways she makes poetic form work and expand mirror the topics of the book - work itself, labour, and the specific but expansive love of her childhood family farm and the people she knew there. From the vibrant way nouns become verbs in “No Trespassing” where “American toads pond the pool” and “Cedars fur the north property line”, to how she captures a haiku-like meditation from stillness in “Under a Cherry” but does so with a kind of playful position of self-observance that Lailey is amazing at, to the brilliant work with couplets in her long form “Farm Photo”; they way the couplets create a sense of polaroids being developed, slowly, with just enough time to develop the full image, Lailey is confidently and artfully engaged with poetics and a savvy reader will be excited and impressed. And then, the impact of all that attention to how poetry works pays off in how the reader feels the poems. Lailey creates a sense of good-hearted, elegiac celebration. Readers will come to love the vineyards and people of her family farm with as much soul and gut and heart as the poet herself reveals.*

—Juleta Severson-Baker, author of [Antecedent, Frontenac House (2023)](https://www.frontenachouse.com/product/antecedent/)

**Bald Owl**

*The magic of owls in flight and the compassionate power of a little girl’s imagination meet in Bald Owl to haunting, beautiful effect.* – Barbara Gowdy, author of The White Bone