

New Release from Empty Bowl: Essays by SE AK FisherPoet Tele Aadsen
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: editor@emptybowl.org or 206 909 8128

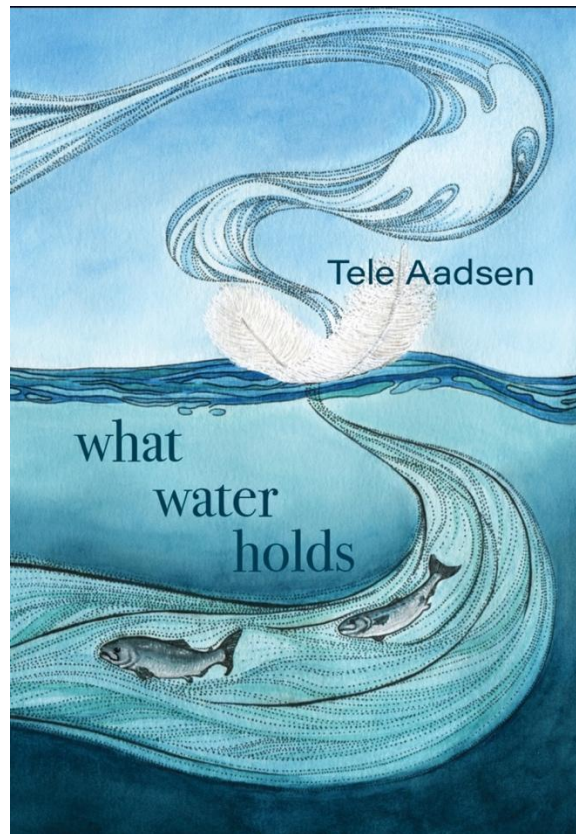
What Water Holds by Tele Aadsen

ISBN# 978-1-73704-081-1

Available through emptybowl.org and Small Press Distribution to booksellers

Empty Bowl Press

\$18 paperback; 160 pages



Tele Aadsen met the ocean as a child when her parents traded jobs as veterinarians for a migratory life shared with sea birds, salmon, and fishermen. In the mist of the Tongass rainforest, Tele learned to explore life within endless shades of gray, coming to know firsthand how fine the line between life and death and the precarious balance of sea, land, and sky. She's spent the four decades since trolling for salmon on Southeast Alaska's offshore waters.

In *What Water Holds*, a series of lyrical, reflective essays first shared at Oregon's FisherPoets Gathering, Tele examines questions of equity, identity, community, the changing climate, and sustainability with loving, detailed attention, revealing the complexities within their many shades of gray. Weaving stories of what lies beneath the surface and—if we choose—the possibilities beyond, *What Water Holds* speaks to anyone who has fallen under the spell of the sea, struggled to find their own uncharted path, or wrestled with big philosophical questions—in short, anyone seeking to live a full, deeply considered life.

Early Praise for *What Water Holds*

Tele Aadsen entered commercial salmon fishing at seven years old on her parents' homemade trolling boat, and what better guide could there be to a living, and a life, made at sea? Her clear-eyed essays overflow with warmth and precision, honoring work, gender, community and creatures in complicated ways. Shearwaters and boat cats, potlucks and rescues, depression and recovery: Aadsen casts a wide net, and the reader can trust her eye, ear, mind and heart. A fine contribution to the working woman's canon.

~**Christine Byl, author of *Lookout* and *Dirt Work: An Education in the Woods***

From the slick deck of a rocking fishing boat, Tele Aadsen finds her footing and navigates the squalls of life with raw vulnerability and courage. *What Water Holds* is a manifesto to face the waves, embrace the unknown, and give thanks for all of it – storms and rainbows, scarcity and abundance, loss and love.

~**Amy Gulick, author and photographer of *The Salmon Way* and *Salmon in the Trees***

In this slim, elegant volume, Tele Aadsen evokes the sea and the fishing community in all its peril and poetry. From childhood on, hers is a life lived from dock to deck, and the empathy and understanding she brings to her past resonates on every page. Her hard-earned wisdom is rendered in brilliant writing. The reader can savor these essays one at a time, or plunge through the whole book and be equally delighted. Read *What Water Holds* and you will never look at salmon in quite the same way again.

~**Laura Kalpakian, author of *Memory into Memoir***

In this beautiful, brave, knowledgeable collection, Aadsen invites us to examine an industry with clear eyes, offers us rare insights into the interior worlds and the external realities that shape both labor and memory. Her recollections are rich and poignant, and her eye for social critique is unwavering as she lays bare the complexities of fishing life. Gender, death, power, history, relationships, color, and the natural world all come under her gaze, shared with ruthless love.

~**Lara Messersmith-Glavin, author of *Spirit Things***

In Tele Aadsen's extraordinary new book, *What Water Holds*, we have the perfect writer to captain this tale of work, love, and life fishing the Alaskan seas. Reading her essays is to be transported to that life she renders so beautifully, with all the risks, challenges, joys, and more found in this memoir's hold. She writes, "Birds, fish, life: It's all one great mystery." And that is what this writer does so effortlessly in stunning prose. She dives, goes subsurface, to bring us mystery, the most sought-after bounty. How fortunate are we, as readers, to have her at the helm.

~**Toni Mirosevich, author of *Spell Heaven***

About the Author

Tele Aadsen is a writer, commercial fisherman, fishmonger, and lapsed social worker. A lifelong seasonal migrant between Southeast Alaska and Washington, she lives ocean-summers as a thankful guest on the outer coast waters of Lingit Aani, aboard the F/V *Nerka* with partner Joel Brady-Power, and land-winters in the Coast Salish territory of Bow, Washington. She self-markets their catch through their business, Nerka Sea Frozen Salmon. Tele performs annually with Oregon's FisherPoets Gathering, collaborated with maritime artist Tom Crestodina on the forthcoming *Working Boats Coloring Book*, and is the author of *What Water Holds*.

Tele Aadsen (“Tell-ah;” she/her)

(360) 303-7770

taadsen@gmail.com

www.teleaadsen.com

<https://www.facebook.com/TeleAadsenWriter> & <https://www.facebook.com/fvnerka>



Empty Bowl, founded in 1976 as a cooperative letterpress publisher, has produced periodicals, literary anthologies, collections of poetry and books of Chinese translation, as well as The Madrona Project series. Our mission is to publish the work of writers who share Empty Bowl's founding purpose: the love and preservation of human communities in wild places.



Empty Bowl
2232 West Valley Road
Chimacum, Washington 98325
emptybowl.org