

CHERIE GEAUVREAU

"Poetry has been my companion in my journey to myself," says Cherie Geauvreau, and adds, "it's usually half a step ahead of me." Cherie was born in 1948 in Windsor, Ontario, read her way through difficult lives, struck out westward after "eastern burnout", arrived on these shores in 1985. Got placed, in a literary and communal sense, when she attended West Word summer school and met writers Gail Scott, Daphne Marlatt, Betsy Warland, Jane Rule, etc. Pivotal.

"Recovering Catholic", unquiet Lesbian, her work is richly erotic and adventurous, and yet she strikes me as shy and watchful. The tentative title for her first collection of poems seems appropriate: *Even the Fawn Has Wings*. The book is scheduled for publication in spring of 1994 by Brick Books. Cherie has always written, but didn't really think of herself as a writer until she settled on Salt Spring Island seven years ago. Something in the air, in the sea-and-landscape released that identity, as well as the list of publishing credits which keeps growing and includes *PRISM International*, *CVII*, *Fireweed*, *Waves*, *Canadian Fiction Magazine*, *Poetry Canada Review*.

Most of the writers she admires are women — Toni Morrison, Sharon Olds, Margaret Atwood are just three I plucked from the long list she reeled off. And yet I think she's very much her own woman in writing. I've watched her poetry come out of a somewhat private and hidden place of pain into the very open, celebratory and urgent energy you now have the pleasure of encountering here.

— Phyllis Webb