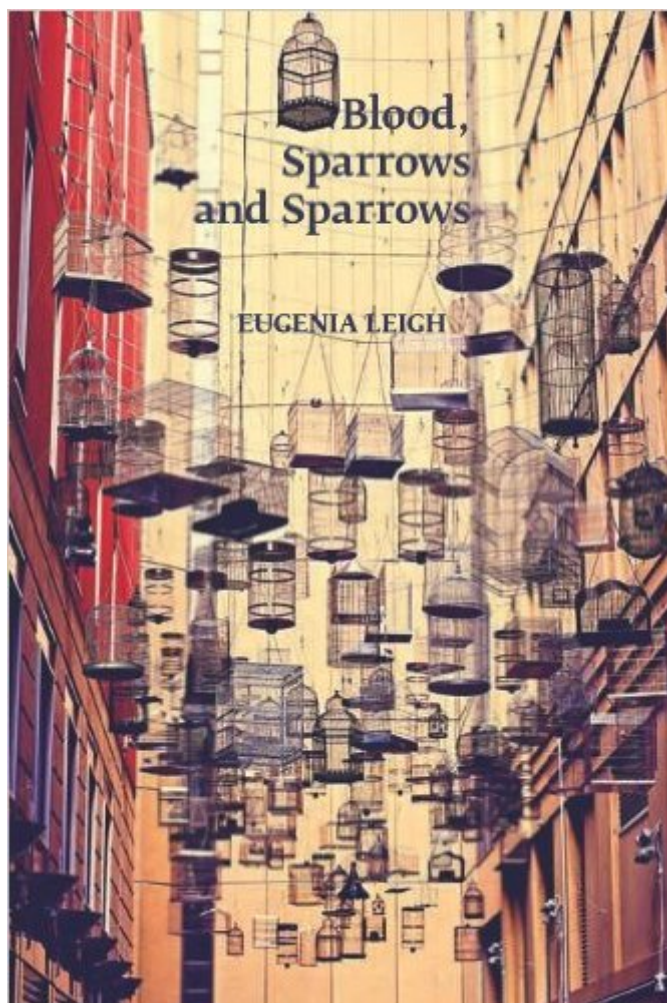


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# Blood, Sparrows And Sparrows (Stahlecker Selections)



## Synopsis

“Everyone warns us off the rocks. / But what will keep us from the river?” Leigh asks in her debut collection, which pieces together a kind of mythology in which the surreal and celestial coexist with the realities of childhood abuse as an adult speaker grapples with its lasting emotional trauma. Rooted in a place of deep faith and bottomless compassion, Leigh’s speaker struggles to remember, and to remind us all, “that to worship is to survive is to be / wholly human.”

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

When the fury of a devastated childhood and or the sorrow of broken loves hit us, we can run and hide, stand and fight, or embrace it and turn it into light. In these fierce, unflinching, and searing poems, Eugenia Leigh is the alchemist that turns nails into angels, feathers into birds, and loss into power. She is the carpenter who builds her own ladder out of a broken world towards God. The central narrative of the book is a family torn apart by violence, and a speaker, who despite “a father who whipped my mother with wire hangers”, is never a victim. But the memory of trauma is unclear as we are presented with fragments of information or interpretations of what happened. Did the father leave the mother and the children, as implied by “6883 Miles from New York, My Father is Alive”? Or did the mother leave the father, as in “My mother left my father more than once. A favorite family tradition observed when I was four. Ten. Eleven. Twelve”? Or did the daughter leave the parents, as we are led to believe in the opening line of the poem, “The morning I abandoned my father, angels materialized everywhere.” “What does it mean that I

remember dreams and not real life?â asks the speaker. Is it possible to leave someone, even when they left you first? Perhaps you donât have to physically remove yourself in order to leave, as in âHow we cripple at having been left, but how much more crippling to know you are the one who leftâ who left him for dead?â Even with all the leaving and being left being enacted in these poems, there are moments of faith that keep the speakerâs world from disintegrating. But the faith of Leighâs speaker is not faith in a benevolent higher power, as God is constantly characterized as a helpless, human creature incapable of action in the face of human suffering.

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