

THE SHADOW OWNER'S COMPANION

“‘The Island’, a personal favourite and one of the most achieved poems in the collection, is a narrative poised between dream and reality that starts out with the epic assurance of Richard Murphy: [...] Yet beyond the poem’s convincing actuality, the narrative is cunningly imagined and ends, impressively, on a note of Yeatsian nostalgia...”

David Cooke
Agenda

“Whether she’s describing a real life rescur or an alternate reality, Hooker has the artistry to anchor each image firmly in her reader’s mind and then to give it a good, star-exploding twist. As an emerging Irish poet, Eleanor Hooker may be destined to make serious waves. Brace yourselves!”

Bridget Sprouls -
Southword

“Eleanor Hooker’s debut collection, *The Shadow Owner’s Companion*, is haunted by childhood memories, and by the fears unleashed by imagination itself. Its poems grapple with the intensity of this material and with its revelatory potential.”

Lucy Collins -
The Stinging Fly

“*The Shadow Owner’s Companion*, by Eleanor Hooker, contains two very different and mutually antagonistic worlds: call them night and waking, call them surface and immersion. Lording it over this under-realm is the figure of the pike, which strikes me as the speaker’s dark and toothsome double, a recurring malignance no more electale than her own shadow or reflection. Such poems bring the clammy uncertainties of childhood re-seeping into the brain’s folds with a persistence I’ve not seen matched in recent years. This most bipolar of companions is a book that jerks us repeatedly between light and dark, between breath and immersion, with a violent and to my mind unforgettable suddenness.”

Billy Ramsell -
Judge of the Strong/Shine award for Best First Collection 2012, citation on shortlist