

## A TUG OF BLUE

“Hooker’s poetry flourishes at the intersection between the natural and human worlds, especially within the ecosystem of Lough Derg, with its fish and its ravens.”

Jonathan Davidson  
Poetry Review UK

“Eleanor Hooker’s second volume of poems, *A Tug of Blue*, is a volume of striking formal and thematic range that confirms—indeed, exceeds—the promise of her lauded first volume, *The Shadow Owner’s Companion* (2012).

...poems show a studied delight in active intuition borne of skill and experience. Observational pleasures emerge in a precision of form and encyclopedic reference to produce a broad range of tone and structure, spanning from short lyrics and virtuoso formal experiments to “found poems” and prose poems. Formally, Hooker’s poems gleam with the polish of a cut gem. Hooker weaves intricate linguistic textures in lines that can prove disorienting but which, at their most effective, also dramatize the topography of internal life with dexterity.”

Bryan C. Chitwood -  
New Hibernia Review, Volume 21

[*A Tug of Blue*] is a beauty, Eleanor, seventy pages of sagacity and lakeside humanism or unitarianism. You are so aware of near immortal forces at work in water and wind, it makes your work immensely powerful morally as well as aesthetically. You are ever making your way, radioning ahead ‘centre your rudder’ to those who come to your lyrics; you will always be highly prized in any room of Rankings. *A Tuf of Blue* is an even more rudder-centred collection, focused, cohering around navigation and rescue, around family and daemons; poetry for you, likt the lake, is a tuf of blue. It is clean, clear water, it is also a hand-made artisan autumn tray of gifts to the constant reader of poetry. A voyage well taken and a safe landing well achieved, of this I’m certain.

Thomas McCarthy  
The Launching Party, Dromineer Literary Festival

“Eleanor Hooker’s *A Tug of Blue* is a very fine book of gently contained yet forceful poems”

Colin Graham  
His favorite books