

# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Impunity* by Shelley Stenhouse



January 7, 2011 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Impunity* by Shelley Stenhouse. In the title poem, the dying mother asks: "Will my daughter be able to come and go with impunity?" Stenhouse's ironically titled collection plays against the backdrop of this mythic riddle. Privilege is tied to punishment: two sides of the same seemingly inescapable coin. In these poems, even nature is seen through a lens of power, money, sex and addiction. These themes and others unfold in images both startling and effortless. We see a poet tackling the big questions, unsatisfied with easy answers, longing for clear borders, for definition, for love and redemption—for impunity. Stenhouse writes with clarity, humor, bravery—her fresh wisdom underscores the visceral details that allow us to see the world as if we have just landed on it.

Tony Hoagland says of *Impunity* that, "Shelley Stenhouse's poems are about sex and using drugs and being a woman, and having money and not having money and how vague life is. None of this stuff is made the slightest bit melodramatic or exaggerated. Instead, her writing has a particularity of detail, an emotional precision and honesty which amounts to that

all-too-rare quality called Frankness. When I read these poems, I think, again and again, "So I'm not the only one," which is consoling, refreshing, amusing, sad, and rehabilitating. I love this work, and *Impunity* will turn you on, bring you down, and grow you up."

Shelley Stenhouse won the Pavement Saw Press Award for her collection, *PANTS*; was a finalist for the 2009 National Poetry Series; received a New York Foundation for the Arts poetry fellowship; an Allen Ginsberg Award; two Pushcart Prize nominations, and three residencies at Yaddo Art Colony. Her poem, "AIDS," has been quoted in *Poet's Market*. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in *The Antioch Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Quarterly West*, *Third Coast*, *Margie*, and *New York Quarterly* (among others), and in *Poetry After 9-11: An Anthology of New York Poets*. Shelley has read on National Public Radio's *All Things Considered* and on several television networks: NY1, Oxygen and Manhattan Cable's *Poetry Thin Air*. She lives in Greenwich Village with her daughter, Daisygreen, and works one-on-one with writers.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



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