

Contents

I. *The Present*

Prayer from the Desert 5

II. *Back Up*

Spring Evenings 9

Hungry 10

Calling from the Scaffold 12

The Perfect Pitch 14

I Want a Big Corny Wink 16

Wild 18

III. *Ah, Yes, Youth: A Brief Interlude*

Once on the Shore 23

Eddie's Dad 26

Clot 28

Choices 31

Before the Age of Reason 33

A Gift 34

IV. *Flood*

Flood 39

A Fire 40

Gabriel's Poems 41

KO 42

Sonata for Water 44

My Mother and the Touched Old Woman 48

A Song for Winter 51

V. *This Speck of Burning Bones and Water*

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Sister Lou | 55 |
| Separation | 61 |
| Mona's Story | 64 |

VI. *All My Dirt for Now*

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Za'Hada | 71 |
| Magda Who Sweetens | 72 |
| A Game of Horse | 74 |
| Holy Thursday, Making a Call | 75 |
| Two Old Friends | 76 |
| Youth Work Camp Abandoned | 78 |
| In the Waiting Room | 80 |

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Acknowledgments | 81 |
|-----------------|----|