

Frog Hollow Press announces the release of Number 7 in our Dis/Ability Series

For a Long Time

by Matthew Tomkinson



For a Long Time . . .

For a long time, I went to bed early.

For a long time I lay on my bed at home.

For a long time I lay trembling in the dark.

For a long time I lay in bed listening to the wrens that sit and sing in the bushes outside and watching the swallows that fly in and out of the broken window at the far end of the hallway.

For a long time there was none, beyond the voice of a weak bird singing a trite old evening song that might doubtless have been heard on the hill at the same hour, and with the self-same trills, quavers, and breves, at any sunset of that season for centuries untold.

For a long time I haven't been in contact with primitive animal life.

For a long time there had been a shrivelled boot lying exposed on grass kept trim by rabbits.

For a long time, I sat perfectly still, waiting till it should reappear, and fearful that the slightest motion, or even the flutter of my breath, might frighten it away.

about the author

Matthew Tomkinson is a writer, composer, and graduate student in Theatre Studies at the University of British Columbia.

He is currently working on a collaborative book of short stories titled *Archaic Torso of Gumby*, and a translation of Hans Henny Jahn's *Pastor Ephraim Magnus*.

He lives in Vancouver on the unceded territory of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

about the artist

Darian Goldin Stahl is a printmaker, bookmaker, and installation artist. She employs visual metaphors and multi-sensory artistic methods to tacitly convey what it is like to live with chronic illness on a daily basis. This research-creation project is a collaborative cycle of informing and reconstructing illness identity with her sister, Devan Stahl, who is a bioethicist and chronically ill.

For a Long Time

has been published in a numbered edition of 100 copies.

Printed on 80 lb. Mohawk Via Vellum and bound into a cover of the same stock. Endpapers.

ISBN 978-1-926948-77-5 48 pages CA\$15.00

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