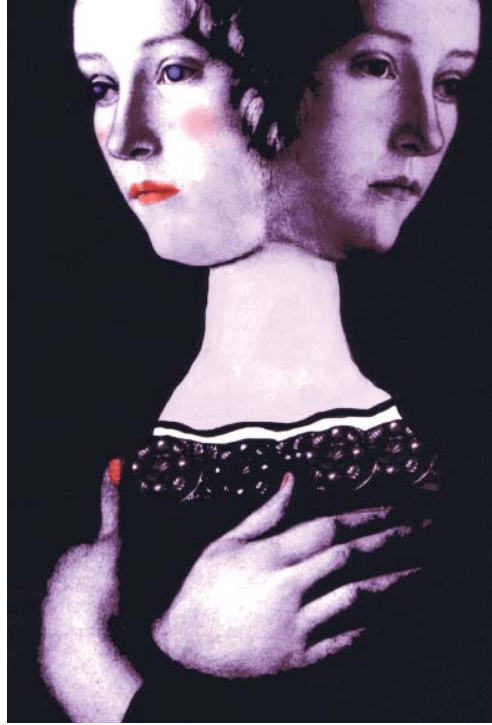


# WOLF HEART ORDER FORM



***Wolf Heart*, by Karon Luddy (Clemson, SC: Clemson University Digital Press, 2007), pp. vi + 38. \$15 paper.**

Karon Luddy is an exciting talent, the product of a vivid, conflicted experience of Upstate South Carolina by a quick, rebellious temperament. In this respect, these free-verse poems are highly original as a body yet not without precedent in American literature. For example, there is Stephen Crane's rebellion against the Methodist religion of his mother in *The Black Riders and Other Lines*, a savagely compressed Whitman or extenuated Dickinson. The pleasure of Luddy's "Family Reunion" derives from combining "Mama's closing statement to God," "big-hearted heathen" Aunt Margaret's "chocolate silk pie," and "my father's dented flask." In another poem, *delirium tremens* is pronounced a symptom of the father's attempted escape from hospital "Naked as Adam." But when discharged, his eyes shine "like black marbles he'd won from the Devil." Rebellion and atonement are reconciled in an elegy in which the same man, aged seventy-five but like a boy, "stomped / into Dead Mama Heaven / proud as a convert"; but, in "Morning After His Funeral," the poet effects her own conversion of him, producing some of the collection's most compelling lyrics.

As the original publisher of Luddy's first short story, "And Here's To You, Mrs. Robinson," *The South Carolina Review* is honored to produce this fascinating book of poetry that examines both imagination and reality.

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