



## Entre Rive and Shore

**Dominique Bernier-Cormier**

Goose Lane (Mar 28, 2023)

Softcover \$19.95 (104pp)

978-1-77310-287-0

Québécois/Acadian, poet/translator, French/English speaking Dominique Bernier-Cormier was led to believe his ancestor Pierrot Cormier donned a dress to escape prison the night before the Acadian Deportation, a British lowlight of the mid-1700s in North America. Ever mindful of his forward-slashed existence, Bernier-Cormier lives, writes, and teaches in Vancouver.

*Self-Portrait As Pythia, the Oracle at Delphi*

*At night, the world opens its jaws for me  
and sings a song of sulphur.*

*On the seventh day of each month, they come at dawn, walking up the white slope.*

*Their future like an itch they scratch, festering.*

*Kings, soldiers, merchants, carrying constellations of coins.*

*Those who pluck what they want from the sky,  
the night their orchard.*

*More, always wanting more.*

*They come to me, up the white slope at dawn,  
on the seventh day.*

*Sometimes, I am a laurel and speak to them  
through the rustling of my leaves.*

*Today, I sit on the tripod, its golden legs stretched  
over a split in the rock.*

*Cloaked in smoke, a purple cloth across my face.*

*They come to me because I speak the language of gods,  
because Apollo and I share a tongue.*

*To translate, I tell them, is to kiss through a veil.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (March / April 2023)

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