



A SPRING 2020 RELEASE

# Dear Vulcan

Poems

LAURA DAVENPORT

In *Dear Vulcan*, Laura Davenport confronts the vexing possibilities of human intimacy, confessing, “The question is what keeps me coming back.” The crisp narrative style and confiding voice of these poems invite readers to consider the ways in which unspoken expectations shape identities and relationships. Located in settings that range from distinct places in the South, such as the Birmingham skyline or a Nashville liquor store, to the imagined landscape of “City without Women,” the poems in this scorching collection measure again and again the distance between men and women.

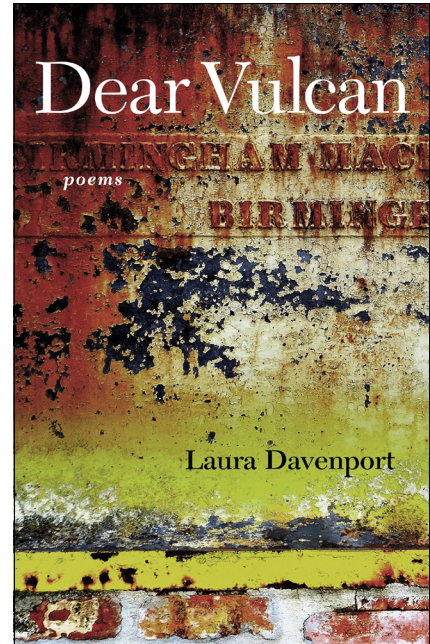
Throughout its pages, *Dear Vulcan* captures an underlying tension experienced by a young woman coming of age amid the traditional patriarchy of the South, delineating connections between physical bodies, constructed selves, and landscapes that allow them to flourish. Often beginning midconversation, Davenport’s poems draw in readers with precisely rendered details as they question assumptions about the lines between memory and reality, and between identity and intimacy.

LAURA DAVENPORT’s poems have appeared in *Best New Poets 2009*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Meridian*, *New South*, and elsewhere. She lives in Savannah, Georgia.

## PRAISE FOR DEAR VULCAN

“This is not a typical first collection: it has the authority and maturity of vision of a poet much further along in her career. Davenport’s poems are as alive with mysteries as Cornell’s shadow boxes, but they are also made up of stern self-appraisals, fraught but tender elegies, and quietly sardonic critiques of contemporary culture, particularly of her native South. *Dear Vulcan* is exemplary in every respect.”

—DAVID WOJAHN, author of *WORLD TREE*, winner of the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize



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