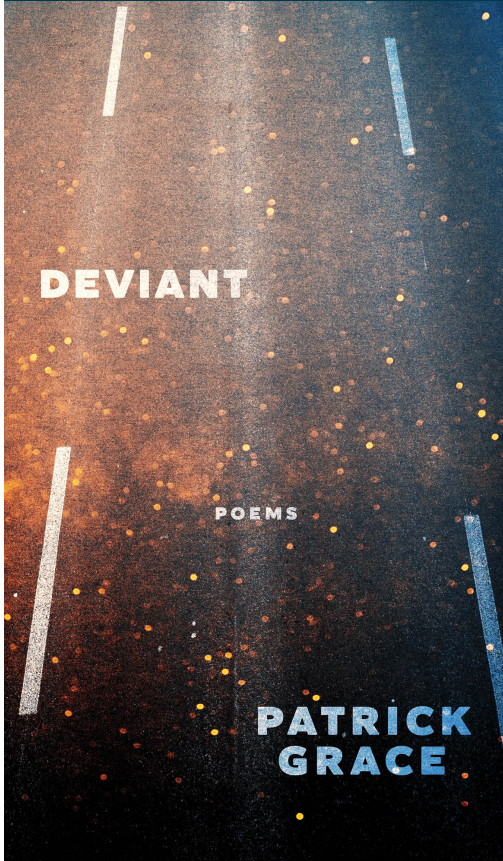




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Deviant

PATRICK GRACE

Deviant traces a trajectory of queer self-discovery from childhood to adulthood, examining love, fear, grief, and the violence that men are capable of in intimate same-sex relationships.

Deviant traces a trajectory of queer self-discovery from childhood to adulthood, examining love, fear, grief, and the violence that men are capable of in intimate same-sex relationships. Richly engaged with the tangible and experiential, Patrick Grace's confessional poetry captures profound, sharp emotions, tracking a journey impacted equally by beauty and by brutality. Coming-of-age identity struggles are recalled with wry wit, and dreamlike poems embrace adolescent queer love and connections as a way to cope with the fear and cruelty that can occur in gay relationships. Later poems in the collection recall vivid moments of psychological trauma and stalking and explore the bias of the justice system toward gay men. Collecting memories, dreams, and fears about sexual identity, *Deviant* makes important contributions to queer coming-of-age and intimate partner violence narratives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patrick Grace is an author and teacher who divides his time between Vancouver and Victoria, BC. His poems have been published widely in Canadian literary magazines, including *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, *Columba*, *EVENT*, *The Ex-Puritan*, *The Fiddlehead*, *The Malahat Review*, *Prairie Fire*, and more. His work has been a finalist for literary contests with *CV2* and *PRISM international*, and in 2020, his poem "A Violence" won *The Malahat Review's* Open Season Award for poetry. He has published two chapbooks: *a blurred wind swirls back for you*, and *Dastardly*, both of which explore aspects of love, fear, and trauma that represent a personal queer identity. *Deviant*, his first full-length poetry collection, continues to explore these themes. Follow him on IG: @thepoetpatrick.

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DEVIANT

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ADVANCE PRAISE

“In *Deviant*, Patrick Grace calls out from the charged and sometimes lonely terrain of queer male intimacy. In brilliant and emotionally devastating work, Grace reminds us how the hunger for connection and the desire for lasting redemption unites us in our longing. *Deviant* is a collection to savour, introducing a brave new voice in Canadian poetry.”

— Trevor Corkum, author of *The World After Us*

“Imagine a poem as a traffic light, blinking “stop, go, and wait.” In the hands of Patrick Grace, a phrasemaker of immense skill, these states are combined and recombined to form a highway to the living, breathing world. *Deviant* is the best kind of poetic debut—written to stand out, and in doing so subverting all expectation.”

—Jim Johnstone, author of *The King of Terrors*

“*Deviant* deftly and with heartbreaking tenderness explores the beauty, yearning, grief, and boundless cycles of discovery involved in queer realization. With a narrative poise that invites the reader in as an intimate witness, Patrick Grace lays down a mosaic of moments that capture the wonders and cruelties of queer being, from heat-warped summer days to coiling truck exhaust and late urban nights. Grace’s poetry is a gift—at once confessional and intimate, yet allowing the queer reader to find themselves time and again within the verse. *Deviant* is an earnest testament to the way a life unfolds in the face of societal rigidities, told with a voice that carries a mesmerizing composure, yet which surges with the undercurrents of a fierce and luminous poetic grace.”

—Rhiannon Ng Cheng Hin, author of *Fire Cider Rain*

“*Deviant* deftly embodies that complex space of queer selfhood and interaction and longing. What a journey, what a joy to move through its beautiful, bruising language, its resonance, and all the ways it makes hope and hurt alike sing.”

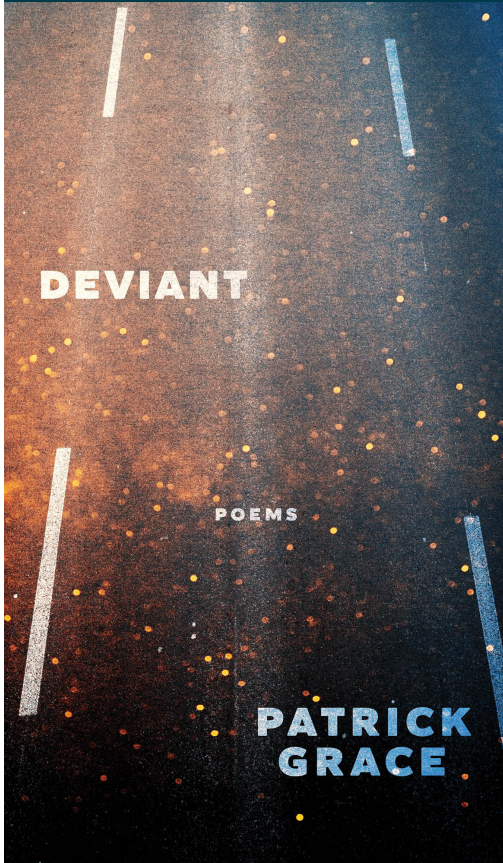
—Dominik Parisien, author of *Side Effects May Include Strangers*

“The glinting and sensually rich poems in Grace’s *Deviant* are in possession of such a harrowing nostalgia. Tread carefully, but tread nonetheless.”

—John Elizabeth Stintzi



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I

Why Not

Dastardly

Nick the Dick

The First

A Cone of Light

Watergun

Ravine

Traffic Light

Nightcall

II

Layover

Strawberry Island

Arthur

Teardown

Student Debt

Caterpillar

The Dark Gap

It's Like That, Is It

The Circuit

III

The Big Dark

Someday You Will Ache

You look older

Afloat

Touch Anywhere to Begin

As If

The Floor Was Water

The Gaslighter

As You Were

switchrail

IV

A Violence

Heatwave

document

Vermilion

Therefore

soft stalker

The Tunnel

Tilt

The Mayfly

Make Good

V

The Calling

fullblown

Fission

Meanwhile