



W.E. ISAACSON LIFE OF A WRITER

by Ellen Nguyen

Born in Windsor, Ontario, on December 11, 1975, Winter Emily Isaacson was immersed in language and storytelling from an early age. The daughter of an ordained Presbyterian minister, she learned to read as a toddler and entered French Immersion schooling in early childhood. Her family later moved to Vancouver Island, where she spent her formative years and began writing poetry at the age of ten. Always placed in advanced academic programs throughout elementary and high school, her early aptitude for language and the arts was clear.

At thirteen, Isaacson was first published for her poem "The Wild Madonna." Despite personal challenges during adolescence, she returned to her studies with determination, later pursuing psychology and nutrition. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from Bastyr University in Seattle and worked professionally as an eating disorder nutritionist, an experience that deeply informed her writing and worldview.

After moving back to Canada, Isaacson lived in Mission at the foot of Bear Mountain, near Westminster Abbey, where her parents resided. It was there that she wrote the three volumes of *The Fleur-de-Lis*.

Isaacson's literary career has been prolific. She has written more than 1,800 poems and published sixteen books of poetry, alongside a solo art exhibition, photography work, and an illustrated children's book. Her writing has been studied academically, including in a 2016 study on Canadian authors at McMaster University. Her work and legacy are preserved through the Wild Lily Institute, where she has also published under her own imprint.

With *Storm Watcher*, Isaacson invites readers into a windswept world of myth, memory, and divine observation. A master of the Petrarchan sonnet, she bridges the golden age of poetry with the modern soul, offering work that is timeless, contemplative, and quietly powerful.

Reviews for *Storm Watcher*:

I didn't expect to be so moved by "Storm Watcher". The poems felt like walking through someone's memories and prayers all at once. I could almost hear the sea and feel the loneliness she writes about. Isaacson's writing reminded me that poetry can still be emotional without being sentimental.

- Bulletproof Girl, reviewer

It's an ambitious work that bridges tradition and modern sensibility.

- Jiminie Mochi, reviewer

Local poet and author W.E. Isaacson has recently released a new book, *Storm Watcher*, a hybrid collection that weaves memoir and poetry into a luminous and deeply reflective literary work. The book was launched late last year at Clearbrook Library in the Fraser Valley and is currently available at The MAC as well as online at winterpoetbooks.com.

Published by Potter's Press, *Storm Watcher* features 85 new poems rooted in the classical traditions of sonnet and song. Isaacson's voice - at once prophetic and intimate - draws from ancient sources and modern spiritual life, evoking wind-swept coastal landscapes, myth, and the intricate symbolism of Pre-Raphaelite art. From Cleopatra's court to the cloisters of contemporary Catholicism, the collection moves fluidly across time, history, and faith.

A devoted craftswoman of rhyme and rhythm, Isaacson's sonnet sequences echo the musicality of earlier poetic eras while engaging with present-day questions of memory, devotion, and self-examination. The poems offer readers the comfort of an old library, the spark of Romantic imagination. With a subtle mysticism and painterly eye, *Storm Watcher* stands as both a personal revelation and a work of enduring literary beauty.