*For immediate release*

# New collection of poems celebrates the Big Apple

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| New York Pocket Book front cover.jpg | Paula-Green-2016-web.jpg |

Respected Kiwi poet Paula Green turns her thoughtfulness and linguistic playfulness in a new direction in her latest poetry collection, *New York Pocket Book*, out this month from Seraph Press. This reflective meander around a new city – the Big Apple – is part travelogue, part essay on the nature of poetry.

*New York Pocket Book* was inspired by a trip Green took to New York City with her family. Green says: “I had built a NYC in my head that was calibrated from TV shows and fiction, so the real thing busted that into a thousand molecules and then reassembled with smell and taste and infectious noise.”

Our guide for our journey around NYC in *New York Pocket Book* is the character of Josephine, whose eyes we see everything through, but who remains enigmatic.

Green says: “I liked the idea of a figure that could carry bits of me but that also carried bits of not-me so I could tell the truth and invent to my heart’s delight … It is all about how you experience something for the first time and how that experience hits you quick and smart, slow and deep, in so many different ways.”

The square pocket-sized volume has a striking bright-orange cover featuring pink text. Publisher Helen Rickerby, who designed the book, says “While the book *is* about New York, it’s also about much more than that – it’s about *everything*. So I didn’t want a picture of some New York icon on the cover – it would have been too restrictive, and too twee. I had this idea of making it look like a cool little guidebook – a guidebook to New York in poetry.”

As well as being a widely respected poet, Green is a tireless ambassador for poetry in Aotearoa and runs two popular poetry blogs: [NZ Poetry Box](https://nzpoetrybox.wordpress.com/) for children and [NZ Poetry Shelf](http://nzpoetryshelf.com/) for adults. She says: “Poetry is way of holding onto life. We all do it differently and that is what makes it so wonderful.”

*New York Pocket Book* is published by Seraph Press, a boutique publishing company run by Wellington poet Helen Rickerby. It is available in bookshops around Aotearoa.

**Notes**

* The author is available for interview – please contact publicist Elizabeth Heritage on 022 652 3981 or books@elizabethheritage.co.nz
* Some poems from the book are available for republication, please contact publicist.
* *New York Pocket Book* is available to purchase from <http://www.seraphpress.co.nz/new-york-pocket-book.html> and from selected NZ bookstores now.
* Media materials, including high-quality images of the book cover and author, are available for download from [www.seraphpress.co.nz/media](http://www.seraphpress.co.nz/media)
* ISBN: 978-0-9941345-2-3; Format: Paperback, 148 mm (tall) x 148 mm (wide), 80 pages; RRP: $25; Publication Date: June 2016

**Paula Green** is a poet, reviewer, children’s author, NZ Book Award judge and anthologist. She has published six previous collections of poetry, plus three collections for children, most recently *The Letterbox Cat & Other Poems* (Scholastic, 2014). She edited the anthologies *A Treasury of NZ Poems for Children* (Random House, 2014) and *Dear Heart: 150 New Zealand Love Poems* (Random House, 2012), and co-authored *99 Ways into New Zealand Poetry* (Random House, 2010) with Harry Ricketts. She is currently working on a book about New Zealand women’s poetry.