

# Tales of the Waihorotiu

Carin Smeaton



Titus Books

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For tāmaki makaurau

# Insulation

stu's closed up the great big hole  
in the kitchen  
coulda let in  
anything  
from anywhere  
any kinda vermin  
so ya gotta keep it clean  
he says & i try  
but today he's back  
wit slavik  
to set things straight  
detect the crap  
hidden in the pipes  
that no one ever even noticed  
not till he arrived  
houston  
we have a problem slavi laughs  
but stu dont think it's very funny  
all that crap all around  
all that flax on the path  
a giant rat flyin fish  
jewish he reckons  
& god knows what else  
runnin cryptic underground

blockin pipes  
as old as the hills  
havin places  
he gotta be  
besides here  
standin in my shit

## Supermarket Noir

i step out  
into a shelf life  
of vinegar time  
that bitter bitch  
been killing me  
for half an hour  
with half an aisle  
of pickled onions  
moon cups and cheese  
a countdown detour  
& im in a ditch  
down the lane  
bleeding fluorescent  
memories of u  
i see everyone  
forget everything  
but u  
& the grapefruit frujust

## Tremor Flower

clementine stood  
wit her magnifying glass  
menstruatin  
to the january moon  
scalin the toilet window to catch  
an apparition  
the children thought  
that month  
it bled brilliant  
that month it bled  
dry  
so did the child support  
along wit the benefits  
all shaved back  
to 50 shades of uterine pink  
ways to treat a lady  
let her stutter 2 the gravy  
slap the slut  
pull a petal  
one claw thru the vulva  
10 in da pie  
more than wat he needed to give  
2 a tart on her knees  
blu-berry baby

how u never turned out  
rock-a-bye-baby  
how u never shut up  
jus stay inside  
rosebud  
my darlin clementine  
& wait 4 the dust  
to settle

# Melancholia

we haven't had rain for ages  
the newspaper  
front page is  
busy  
celebrating  
how amazin  
this blazin weather is  
sun  
yay  
every day  
they say  
it's the glorious summer of 20-13  
it'll end on a high  
end wit a bang  
whatever its distance  
wherever it is  
im picking up my kids  
from school  
wish i could enjoy  
this beautiful weather  
i say  
to matthew  
he's picking up his grandkids  
he says

yip yip  
yesterday  
he took full advantage of it  
under the tide of a full moon  
went for a dip  
point chev beach  
school boy shorts  
forced to wear em he says  
one day he'll get some proper ones  
then i go blame the moon  
for my moods  
but actually i lied  
it's cortisol  
and norepinephrine  
how do you pronounce that?

## Night Shower

last night  
i wanted to catch  
a meteor shower  
but it was the wrong night  
i saw 2 hedgehogs instead  
under the cosmos sky  
under the clothesline  
that was pretty cool  
wit uncle moon  
naina says  
he give us the light  
to go anywhere  
astro speed  
to see the night  
swallow aniseeds  
whole  
then throw em up  
da brightest ones  
weather dreadful  
stellar blue  
i think i'll wake  
my boys for u  
if we don't see u  
we'd at least see

the hedgies  
i think that'd make  
us happy