

Maria Sticco, Publicist  
e-mail: mes5@pitt.edu  
tel: (412) 383-2493 fax: (412) 383-2466

3400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
tel: (412) 383-2456 fax: (412) 383-2466  
www.upress.pitt.edu

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### **Romantic love is both celebrated and mourned in poet's new collection**

PITTSBURGH—In Denise Duhamel's new collection *Blowout*, the Florida poet admits she is "a love-struck fool." However, in her inimitable style, she embraces the crazy wisdom of the Fool of the Tarot deck, the fool as entertainer or jester. From a kindergarten crush to a failed marriage and beyond, Duhamel explores the nature of romantic love and her own limitations.

"*Blowout* chronicles the journey from heartbreak to new love but is so much more," said fellow Florida author Barbara Hamby. "It is a meditation on love and the sacrifices we make to create it in tenements, in condos, on boardwalks, and in our own hearts. Wearing her rare shade of Bali Brown lipstick, Duhamel strides through lovelorn streets like a Valkyrie, a straight-talking goddess, who takes on the teeming world and makes it her own."

Terrance Hayes offered praise as well: "The discerning exuberance that has long defined Duhamel's work is distressed in *Blowout*, but it is ultimately resilient. Her poems continue shouldering difficult, disorderly subjects with remarkable imagination and candor. She remains one of the best poets writing today."

Duhamel is professor of English at Florida International University and the author of numerous poetry collections, including *Ka-Ching*, *Two and Two*, and *Queen for a Day: Selected and New Poems*. She has written five chapbooks of poetry and coedited, with Maureen Seaton and David Trinidad, *Saints of Hysteria: A Half-Century of Collaborative American Poetry*.

The recipient of numerous awards, including an NEA fellowship, Duhamel has been anthologized widely, including *Penguin Academics: Contemporary American Poetry*; *Seriously Funny: Poems about Love, Death, Religion, Art, Politics, Sex, and Everything Else*; and *Word of Mouth: Poems Featured on NPR's "All Things Considered."* Duhamel is guest editor for *Best American Poetry 2013*.

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