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**“Elderstile” poetry answers curiosity about the aging of the soul**

PITTSBURGH—In her new collection, *The Book of Seventy*, Alicia Suskin Ostriker seizes the opportunity to take us where few poets have been able or willing to—the domain of our “golden years.”

“As we live longer, we become inevitably curious about the actual texture of these late years, curious about what happens in the soul,” Ostriker explains. “Out of that curiosity a new kind of poetry is born, an elderstile that has passion and irony, wisdom and folly, clarity and tenderness.”

Like her heroine, poet Muriel Rukeyser, Ostriker has experienced the first centuries of world wars and laments the violence that seems inseparable from our species, yet she remains “a fool for beauty.” In her keen engagement with the self and the world, Ostriker offers us a voice and perspective that explore the territory of age 70 and beyond.

*The Book of Seventy* can be viewed as notes from an explorer’s journal, news from an elsewhere into which we are likely headed—with Ostriker as the pioneer.

Joyce Carol Oates praised the new collection by saying, “Here is a hard, obdurate, elusive sort of beauty. Alicia Ostriker is not only one of our very best poets but one of our most crucial.”

“*The Book of Seventy* will speak to everyone,” says Jean Valentine. “Ostriker’s honest voice, her humor, her wisdom, her gutsiness; her scholarly, longing mind; her knowing body . . . and from the first page to the last, her long-recognized courage in facing down—even welcoming—just about everything.”

Ostriker is the author of 12 previous poetry collections, including: *The Mother/Child Papers; No Heaven; the volcano sequence; and The Little Space: Poems Selected and New, 1968–1998*. She has received the Paterson Poetry Prize, the William Carlos Williams Award, the San Francisco State Poetry Center Award, and twice has been a finalist for the National Book Award. Ostriker is Professor Emerita of English at Rutgers University and teaches in the low-residency MFA program of Drew University.

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