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### **Starrett Poetry Prize winner explores our 'perpetual panic'**

PITTSBURGH—The University of Pittsburgh Press has just published the winner of its 2010 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize—Glenn Shaheen's debut collection, *Predatory*.

"One of the main themes of this poetry collection is the effect of the perpetual panic that over the past decade we've been told we must hold ourselves in," said Shaheen. "It's a largely unfounded panic that is mainly related to some kind of social unraveling, but in *Predatory*, I've also tried to transmute it into panic surrounding small personal disasters as well."

The 31-year-old Shaheen was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and recently became an American citizen, with dual citizenship. He resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and teaches at Western Michigan University there.

"It's narcissistic, in a way, to imagine that we, of all people, are living at the end of society, incapable of picturing anything continuing beyond us," according to Shaheen. "But that's also how we view any kind of emotional trauma or heartbreak we experience." He cited Jorie Graham—particularly her *Overlord*—Jane Miller, Carolyn Forché, Tony Hoagland, Quan Barry, and William Blake as some of his main influences while writing his award-winning volume.

"*Predatory* makes a surprising and substantial addition to our literary tradition of the reckless, dead-serious-funny," said acclaimed poet Tony Hoagland.

Shaheen's work has appeared in *Subtropics*, */nor*, *Barrelhouse*, and *Washington Square*, among other publications. Shaheen received an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Houston, and currently serves as the Secretary of Communication for the Radius of Arab-American Writers, Inc.

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*Predatory*, poems by Glenn Shaheen, is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press  
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