

Curtin University

Lucy Dougan

Prose poems, written by members of the Prose Poetry Project, November 2014 to July 2017, compiled by the editors

Biographical note:

Lucy Dougan's books include *Memory Shell* (Five Islands Press), *White Clay* (Giramondo), *Meanderthals* (Web del Sol) and *The Guardians* (Giramondo), and she has won the Mary Gilmore Award, the Alec Bolton Award and shortlistings for the 2015 Queensland Premier's Prize for Poetry and the 2016 Victorian Premier's Prize for Poetry. She currently works for Westerly at UWA and also teaches creative writing at Curtin University.

Once when we travelled you wore a key about your neck. People would stop and ask you what it opened – your heart, your home, the centre of the earth – but you insisted it was just a key that opened nothing extraordinary. Only to the Japanese waiter in the crypt at St Martin in the Fields did you allow any concession. When he asked if he might use it, you answered *perhaps*.

(from *Pulse* 2016)