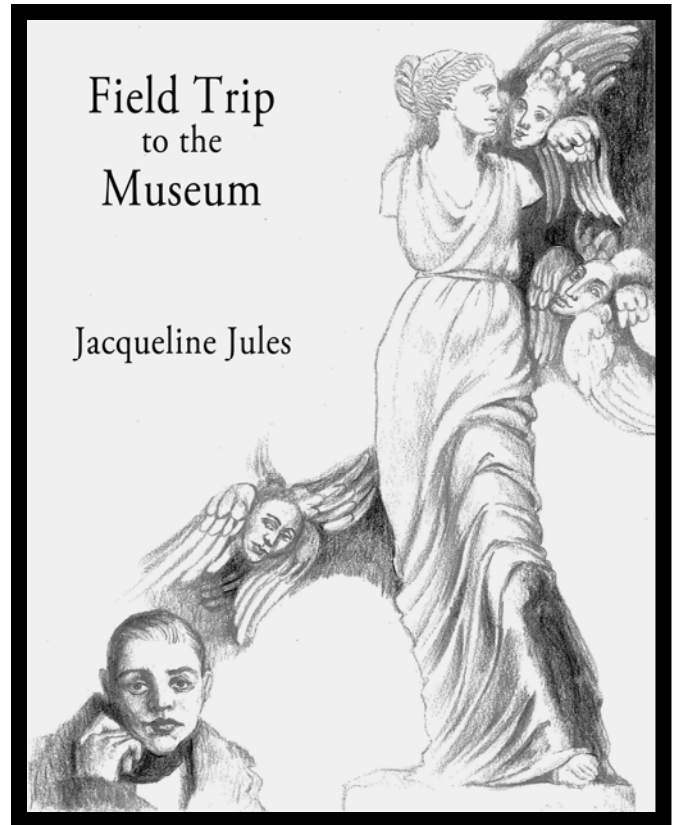


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**FINISHING LINE PRESS** is proud to announce  
the publication of  
**FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSEUM**



a chapbook of poems by Jacqueline Jules  
<http://fieldtriptomuseum.blogspot.com>



Cover art by Katherine Janus Kahn

**CHOICES**

If I choose  
what's behind door A,  
I lose  
what's behind door B.  
Forget  
what's behind door C,  
it can't be considered now.  
Choices,  
always controlling  
my life,  
even when  
I close my eyes  
and wait  
for the giant wheel  
to point  
to a place  
I had not planned to go.

**AN OYSTER'S LUCK**

When a grain of sand  
pricks its soft interior,  
the oyster spits  
a shiny hard substance  
encasing the object of grief.  
Layer by layer,  
a lustrous stone forms  
in the place of irritation.  
How lucky to be an oyster  
who can transform its tears  
into treasure.

**CHISELED STONE**

I have often admired  
the statue  
without once considering  
the stone;  
its chiseled  
transformation  
from oblong mass of granite  
to graceful person  
poised in self-assurance.  
Each strand of hair  
curled now to perfection  
once endured  
blow after blow  
from hammer and chisel—  
my complaint exactly  
feeling my own form  
whacked  
into a different shape  
by external forces  
not requested.

If only I could be  
an esteemed art treasure  
worthy of a pedestal  
and a glass case with an alarm.  
If only they could see me  
as I am in my dreams:  
Venus  
still draped in the sculptor's cloth  
waiting for that glorious moment  
when I will be unveiled  
and displayed  
in the center of the room.

**FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSEUM** is a thematic collection in the voice of an eighteen-year-old girl examining her life during weekly sessions with a psychologist. In 25 narrative poems, Jules tells the moving story of a young girl who travels away from self-destructive behavior to a new acceptance of herself.

*“Field Trip to the Museum* is a powerful, yet graceful collection of poems that express the emotional turmoil of youth. With hopeful verses such as ‘An Oyster’s Luck,’ Jules traces the path toward adulthood.” —Margarita Engle, Newbery Honor-Winning author of *The Surrender Tree*.

“Jacqueline Jules’ poems surprise and delight. Homing in on the specific, they illuminate what’s most human in us all.” – Barbara Ann Porte, author of *Something Terrible Happened* and *He’s Sorry, She’s Sorry, They’re Sorry, Too*.

**JACQUELINE JULES** is a poet, teacher, and author of two dozen children's books including the award-winning *Zapato Power* and *Unite or Die: How Thirteen States Became a Nation*. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications including *Hospital Drive*, *YARN*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Imitation Fruit*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *Calyx*, *Little Patuxent Review*, *Inkwell*, *Potomac Review*, *Third Wednesday*, *Connecticut River Review*, *Cicada*, *The Poetry Friday Anthologies*, and *Pirene's Fountain*. She is the recipient of the SCBWI Magazine Merit Award for Poetry, Best Original Poetry from the Catholic Press Association, and a two-time winner of the Arlington Arts Moving Words Competition. Visit her online at [www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com).

**FIELD TRIP TO THE MUSEUM** is a limited edition collection. **Pre-publication sales will determine the press run, so please reserve your copy now.**

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