



deborah haliburton

Deborah Haliburton, born in 1958 in BC, grew up in Nova Scotia. Her writer father wanted her to become a writer. She has written in earnest since her twenties and honed her skills in creative writing classes at the University of Winnipeg and workshops with the Canadian Authors Association. She also studied Creative Communications for a time at Red River College. She mentions Leonard Cohen and "New Thought" philosophy as influences. In line with this, she works at focusing on inspirational writing, with a view to eschewing negative thoughts and dwelling on all that's good and beautiful. When she must deal with difficult issues, she imbues her work with a kind of bold honesty that she resolves with hopeful endings. Her poetry has been published in *Transition*, a magazine from the Saskatchewan CMHA – and in a self-published chapbook titled *Come Morning*.

Deborah started drawing more recently and without training, so she considers her visual work folk or "outsider" art. In this, she has been inspired by fellow Nova Scotian Maude Lewis. She puts coloured pencil to paper, adding occasional watercolour highlights to bold and totemic subjects. Deborah seeks beauty in nature, and sees spirit and message in its transformations and cycles. She finds her non-verbal visual art free from the blocks that sometimes challenge writing. She adds, "Making art is therapeutic, soothing... and I like the end result."