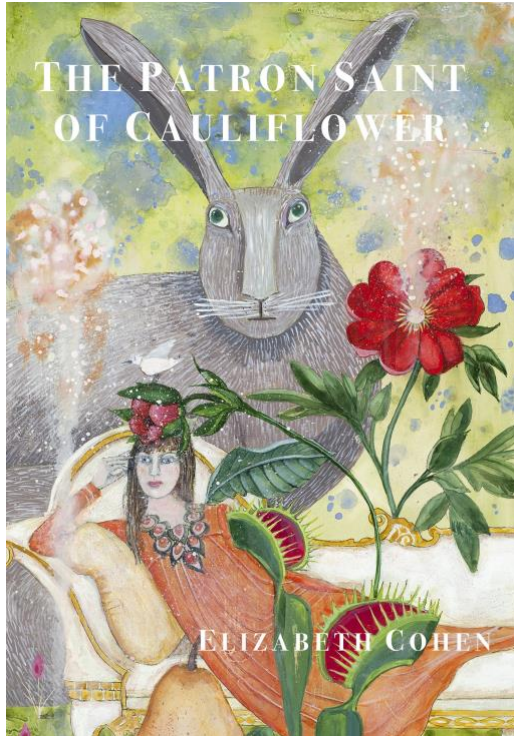


Houston: Press Release – Saint Julian Press is proud to announce a new book of poetry. *The Patron Saint of Cauliflower*, by author Elizabeth Cohen. In this collection the author parses the twin topics of food and apocalypse. Forged in the ovens and stove of a mother's kitchen that concocted a sense of warmth and safety, these poems venture out into a world that tips toward chaos.



Raised in the shadow of Los Alamos, birthplace of the atomic bomb and not far from White Sands, where it was tested, Cohen, whose mother was a wannabe gourmet chef who raised her children on exotic dishes and haute cuisine, spent her childhood family vacations on tours of atomic museums and nuclear test sites and at the International UFO Museum and Center for Alien Research in Roswell. From this soupcon of experiences emerges this new collection of poetry, in which Cohen sings the praises of various vegetables, fruits, and recipes, delivering up “spells” and incantations to “patron saints” of various foods, and hints at all the apocalyptic ways we might find our earthly demise. Food meets fear in this collection of 48 poems, which Guggenheim-winning poet April Bernard has said are filled with “magic, metaphor and music.”

How best to prepare for the end of the world? These poems are configured as spells, prayers and incantations that parse the nuanced power of a delicacy like asparagus prepared in a fig sauce and the power of the cabbage, which she calls “pure muscle that comes up from the earth,” to save us all. In the words of Donna Baier Sein, editor of the magazine *Tiferet*: “These poems reveal how our attention to both words and the sustenance we offer ourselves and loved ones may well be a saving grace.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Elizabeth Cohen is associate professor of English and Creative Writing at SUNY Plattsburgh. Her 2003 memoir, *The Family on Beartown Road*, was a New York Times Notable Book of the year and a Barnes and Nobles Discover Great New Writers pick. Last year, Saint Julian Press released her book *Bird Light*, poems from the annals of her lifelong affection for birds and bird watching.

In elegant, candid, raffish poems (about food but also about everything) Elizabeth Cohen again shows us how poems can be loci for ardent life. Her unmistakable voice is confiding and intimate--and her extraordinary charm is to seem offhand and yet, with invisible art, to have made every line true.

—April Bernard, author of
Miss Fuller: A Novel and *Romanticism: Poems*

Reading Elizabeth Cohen’s, *The Patron Saint of Cauliflower*, I’m reminded of Baudelaire's saying that “Any healthy man can go without food for two days--but not without poetry.” In this collection that celebrates what we eat

from the mundane (the pretzel) to the gourmet (asparagus in fig sauce), Cohen has served up lines that satisfy the poet and foodie, reminding us how both arts help us celebrate our humanity. Each of these poems is “a psalm, a portent, a proof-in-the-pudding” and each rich, flavorful, delicious.

—Gerry LaFemina, author of *The Story of Ash* and *Palpable Magic*

How to prepare for the end of the world except by trying to feed the world? In *The Patron Saint of Cauliflower*, Elizabeth Cohen gives us poems that nourish the starving soul, recipes and spells and odes in praise of what sustains us, even against the gravest odds: food and love and the imagination, itself. She turns her passion for the physical world — plant, animal and human — into magic, metaphor and music here. The children of Aleppo are eating grass, but they have also trained themselves, in her reckoning, “to hear the sound of sunshine/on broken glass.”

—Cecilia Woloch, author of *Earth* and *Tzigan*

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For review copies, contact: Ron Starbuck or Elizabeth Cohen

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A book release event will take place at **Max Fish**, 120 Orchard Street, NYC – 4:00 PM on Saturday, June 16, 2018. To schedule readings, book signings, and book group visits, contact Elizabeth Cohen: Elicoh@aol.com

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