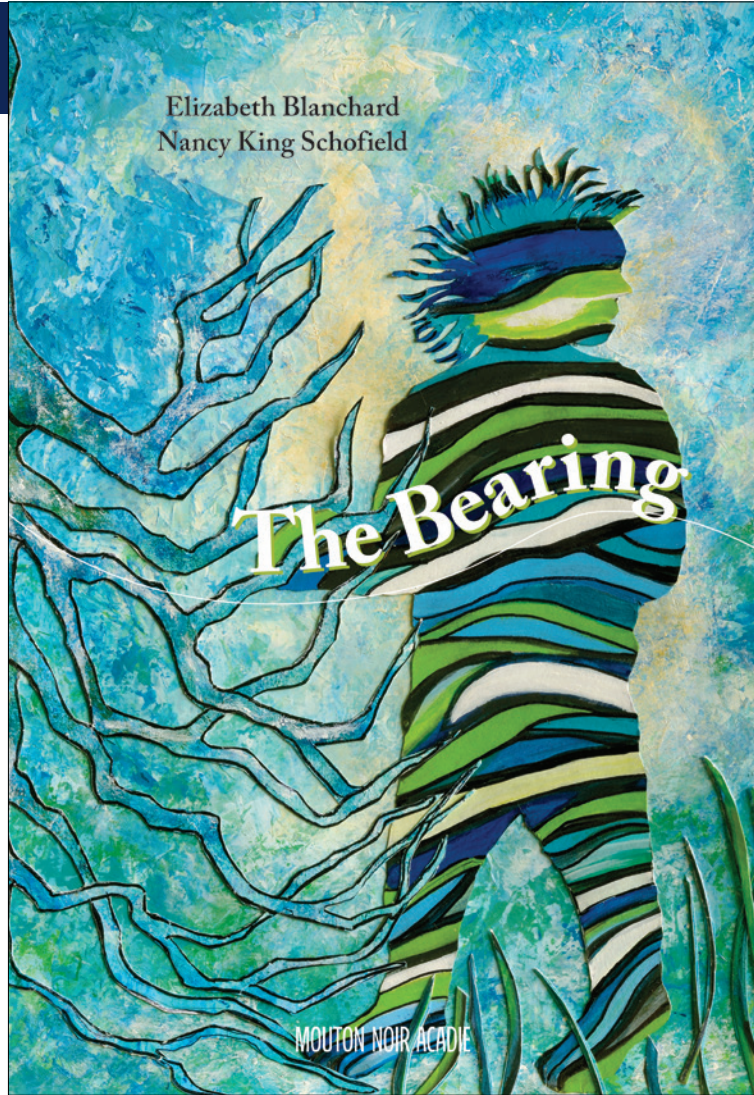


Elizabeth Blanchard
Nancy King Schofield



The Bearing

Written by Elizabeth Blanchard
Art Work by Nancy King Schofield



Young adults

Secondary school – Immersion – University

"A dreadful urgency rose in her flesh. The children would soon come pouring out of the doors for recess. [...] She leaned forward, dug her nails into the ground, and cocked her haunches."

Synopsis

From the marshy lands by the sea emanates a strange, disturbing story, lurking in the memory of a timeless storyteller. The story of a man and a woman expecting a child.

As she holds her newborn son in her arms, the young mother feels her heart leave her chest. From that moment on, she sinks into the meanders of a visceral love and gradually loses her humanity. She watches over her son like a wounded bear, while her husband watches helplessly as his wife is transformed. This fable for adults weaves a tale in which a mother's attachment, like the slow work of the sea, ends up ravaging this family of fishermen.

Why read this book?

- A finely chiselled tale where the marvellous and the real come together.
- A high-low text, i.e. a subject for young adults and adults, but with a relatively accessible structure.
- An original work, the fruit of a four-handed collaboration between an author and a painter.

Technical specificities

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Nancy King Schofield is a poet and visual artist. She obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction from Mount Allison University in 1991 and has since presented over a hundred art exhibitions. She won the Loomis and Toles Award for painting from Mount Allison and an award at the *Festival des arts visuels en Atlantique in Caraquet* (2001). She also won first place in the Writers' Federation of New Brunswick Writing Competition (2010). She co-founded the groups *Breach House Gang* (1999) and *Women Who Write* (2016), which consist of published writers and artists who continue to meet every month.

The creators

Elizabeth Blanchard worked as a pharmacist for fourteen years before her interest in literature eventually led to a career change. Her short fiction has appeared in Canadian literary journals and anthologies. Member of the Board of Directors for the Frye Festival, she also co-edited *Cadence: voix féminines females voices* (2020, Frog Hollow Press) and was assistant fiction editor for *The Antigonish Review*. She won the Writer's Federation of New Brunswick literary competition for short fiction and was a 2021 finalist for the David Adams Richards Prize.

