

# Franklinstein

Or, the making of a modern neighborhood

Susan Landers

*Franklinstein* is a church of stained glass truth-telling. These poems with their brick and bittersweet refrains, they are cast-ironed and tender, a blueprint for preserving the story of us and our neighborhoods. Landers found in Germantown a poetry of once and now, a poetry of searching for the marrow of where we're from in each other. —Yolanda Wisner

Landers' monstrosity is less a meeting of minds than the clash of geographies, races, denominations, and, most poignantly, the world of adults and that of children. This verse memoir, prose elegy, and documentary exposé will remind some readers of Rukeyser's *The Book of the Dead*, which, we must recall, is also a book of the living. —Tyrone Williams

*Franklinstein* captures in feeling and form one glorious (and decrepit) manner of originating in this America. This is the Germantown I know: westernmost, flooded, lost in the woods of its baby kind of ruins, a spittle of street names along the Wissahickon Creek. In her study of Germantown, Landers derives a poetics of urban history, of being from, really from, a place—Philadelphia—that cuts itself into your skin. —Simone White



Susan Landers is the author of 248 mgs.: *a panic picnic* and *Covers*, both published by O Books. Her chapbooks include *15: A Poetic Engagement with the Chicago Manual of Style* and *What I Was Tweeting While You Were On Facebook*. She was the founding editor of the journal *Pom<sup>2</sup>* and has an MFA from George Mason University. She lives in Brooklyn.



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