



### Editorial Review and Endorsements

In this page-turner of a first novel, Léger displays an amazing grasp of dialog, surging story, and graphic detail. One doesn't have to be an intellectual or rock fan to enjoy the story, but her narrative makes use of common and esoteric names such as Brian Eno, Grateful Dead, de Kooning, Satie, Böll, and phenomena such as *bris* and black hole. The story follows 14-year-old Dufy through erotic adventures into her mid-40s as she searches for usefulness and ecstasy. Léger evidences rich experience and keen observation derived from her professional work as a psychotherapist and cultural activity. It's easy to identify with her characters—female and male—they are toy-designer, budding astrophysicist (we are “lonely specks” in the universe), architect, artist, stable hand, machinist, mid-wife, suburban mother, actress, occupational therapist—but their character, sexuality, and mental health is what really matters here, and their vivid portrayal through contemporary teen-aged angst, youthful and middle-aged lust, manic madness, and vicissitudes of birthing. Léger's promised second and third novels in Fairy Shrimp Trilogy will no doubt excite, shock and thrill--breathlessly educating the reader in the yearnings of love, sex, pride, hurt, and healing—rebellion and resolution.

-David Lewit, sociologist and author

A passionate and haunting tale of a woman's obsession, longing, and sexual desire. From seeds planted in childhood, Dufy seems doomed to repeat her pattern of falling for bright but broken men who cannot love her as she wants to be loved. Shellie Leger's honest prose and sensual imagery tease us into seeing the harsh environments she portrays as temporarily beautiful even as we feel Dufy's desperation and loneliness. Dufy wants to believe it will all work out and so do we.

-Belle Brett, Ed.D., fiction writer, Del Sol Review

Writing with rare candor about Dufy's struggle to love and be loved across two marriages and an affair, Shellie Leger has written a generous, insightful book. Leger's eye for the compelling detail that conveys character with insight and compassion is on full display here. *Lonely Specks* is an unflinching look at how we survive--and even thrive--against tremendous odds.

-Lisa Burke, Fiction Writer, Orion magazine, The Boston Globe

Shellie Léger has created a memorable female character who she takes past the yearning of adolescence and into the growing pains of adult life with rich period details.

-David Lawton, author of *Sharp Blue Stream*