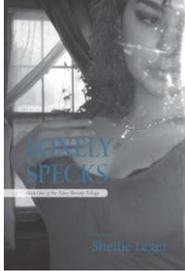


## For Immediate Release

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Large in both logistical and emotional scope, Shellie Leger's *Lonely Specks* will pull you close and hold you through all 400 pages. You'll care about irrepressible Dufy Loch, longing for love and bursting with life, as she's driven towards, and away from, a series of men and, ultimately, to understanding and grace. Leger writes knowingly about the choices people make in their quest to become whole. —Cynthia Anderson, author of *River Talk*

West Paris, ME, May 5, 2014—*Lonely Specks*, a novel by Maine author Shellie Léger, up-market literary fiction for adults, tells the story of Dufy Loche, the beautiful teen-aged daughter of bohemian, neglectful parents. The novel takes us from the hedonistic '70s in Topanga Canyon to Portland, Maine decades later. Dufy escapes her fractured family to the East Coast to pursue her dream of becoming a modern dancer. She meets an older man named Bruce whose break with reality leaves her riddled with grief...

After her marriage to Marcus turns sour 25 years later, Dufy, now a successful nurse-midwife and mother of two meets Alan Harp, a mentally ill, homeless painter. But when she leaves her family for him, she almost gets herself killed and has to escape. Faced with a variety of life-changing decisions, she is forced to grapple with her need to rescue. Years of stuffed anguish and despair, which she'd buried "under layers of old hurts" erupt and she is forced to ponder the trajectory of her life and how to claim what's left. Facing down her mess feels unfathomable, but she decides she must. In *Lonely Specks*, Shellie Leger gives us a novel in lean and precise language replete with humor layered over deep sadness, blunt honesty, and blunt accounts of sex. There's a steady focus on questions of grave importance—when is love good and when is love bad? What does it mean to be crazy? What does it mean to be happy? *Lonely Specks* is a novel of engrossing vigor on the nature of redemption and longing.

Steven Moore, producer and host of *Off the Shelf* writes of *Lonely Specks*, "Leger is the sort of fiction writer who cranks up the truth, entertains, digs deep into the psyche, and does so in crystalline and evocative prose. Her brilliance lies in her characters that come alive on the page and drives the reader through her work with relentless momentum. *Lonely Specks* makes a sincere and honest foray into the nature of desperation, and leaves us probing our own."

Burns Woodward, MD, clinical psychiatrist says, "A lyrical, fierce, and sexy exploration of the nature of love. Shellie Leger has an acute psychological understanding of desire, craving, and the compulsion to rescue. She portrays with verve what it means to sacrifice one's self for love of someone who is mentally ill."

*Lonely Specks* is available on Amazon, and can be purchased through the author's web-site, [www.paregoricpress.com](http://www.paregoricpress.com), the publisher, Maine Authors Publishing ( [www.MaineAuthorsPublishing.com](http://www.MaineAuthorsPublishing.com)), or local bookstores.

Léger is a Maine writer. She's lived "away," mostly in NYC and Cambridge, Massachusetts, having fled her home-town of Rumford as any writer must at the age of 17. Recently she returned to her home state to her hopefully permanent home in West Paris where she lives with her husband Steven, step-daughter, 2 dogs, one cat and a pot bellied pig and is a practicing psychotherapist. She is also the mother of three young adult children who have struck off on their own. She is a published writer of short-stories. *Lonely Specks* is her first novel, and the first book of her character-driven trilogy *Fairy Shrimp Trilogy* which includes *The Treadwell Place* and *Back Kingdom*, taking place in Rumford and Andover, respectively. The trilogy is aptly named after the tiny translucent vertebrates that dwell in the vernal pools of Western Maine.