



**FALSE FRIENDS**  
**STEPHEN CAIN**

FIRST EDITION

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ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
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Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Financé par le  
gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

The production of this book was made possible through the generous assistance of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. BookThug also acknowledges the support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund and the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Book Publishing Tax Credit and the Ontario Book Fund.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA  
CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION

Cain, Stephen, author

False friends / Stephen Cain. — First edition.

Poems.

Issued in print and electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-77166-290-1 (SOFTCOVER)

ISBN 978-1-77166-291-8 (HTML)

ISBN 978-1-77166-292-5 (PDF)

ISBN 978-1-77166-293-2 (KINDLE)

I. Title.

PS8555.A4624F35 2017 C811.54 C2016-908127-3  
C2016-908128-1

PRINTED IN CANADA

“We’ve got computers that can find us friends  
We know roughly when the world will end”

— Red Guitars “Good Technology” (1983) —

“Poetry friends are not real friends”

— Mat Laporte —

## **STANZAS**

Perform without a spotlight.  
Fat belt tightening.  
A mix for the masters.  
Starve the saccharine smiths.  
Apparent apartheid.

Attired for the execution.  
A speaking sacrifice.  
In chancery.

Minimal music, rapid repetition.  
Soft fidelity circular saw query accepted.

Initially not à la carte.  
No *flic* no Bic.  
Finally finished.  
Presently parting, no achievement  
    desired allotment tragic temporality misaligned.  
Impossible mutation.  
Lost laurels.  
Ipso facto, frequent phenomenon foregrounds no small city.  
Site of seeding.  
Evolutionary ends meet.  
Weighty waste.  
Still nothing to spare.

Cigarettes arise from rocks and sail above sketches.

The moment of magnification increases instants.



Distracted dogma, dinner.

Star snuff repurposed.

Annexed and assimilated.

Rats immured, out of eyesight.

Definition displacement unfulfilled forage.

Pose a preposition, Platonic supplement.

Absolute alibi reversal.

Missed Mr.

Ultimately unexpected.

Epistemology.

Disordered denouement.

Constant conclusion.

Surrogate sorority or failed fraternity.

Once upon Eden fallen fallacy.

Example excised, present parting disembarked.

Martini stability.

Tiny enchantress symmetry.

Different diner larger larder.

Cyclopean charts, sizably significant.

Mutate not accrete, flaccid, books are bound.

Sirens.

Attuned.

Charming corridor, claiming the chamber.

All available less than three, qualify the quartet, a past pair.

Anti-mimetic.

One red, tied textile, a series of syringes, nod out.

Eventually an anniversary.

Daily dullness contributes cake, mundane matters,  
refined recollection, central speech suspense.

Similar slug, angry Asians,

confident conservative messy mirrors blurring the blue.

Racism rising, silent succession,

the entire edifice eroding like an eminence grise.

A happy hungry hubby.

Open not oppressive.

Lachrymose lyric.

Tantamount to teaching.

Nearsighted anxious and wedded to a wet-nurse,

often restricted to surprise grooming.

Silence, sure.

Shattered spectacle, fenestral failure lacking language,

constant chiaroscuro, empty.

Always inclined to abhor the lost law.

Soon cinders satiate.

Route to remuneration.

Masculine query.

Muted movement, useless gesture, much mesmerism.

Sulky submission, deep decline, extreme opposition wide berth,

incremental isolation, a somnambulant soldier's dereliction of duty.



Ex nihilo.

Weigh the well-endowed, consider the contrast, analyze again.  
Consider coherence, propose pestering, restarting not realigning,  
twin quintets eat and smile.

Be bearish, kind of blue or assumed astral.

Ishtar.

Recognized as rhetorical.

No fault assurance.

Donning a dud same shrug conjunction, shared circumstance.

Cursive chaos.

Arrested epistles.

*Idée fixe.*

Perforated postage extraordinary emblem.

Evoke absence.

Hermetic handbag hazard.

Slippery cycle frayed fabric figures, identical Isaac or apocalyptic Abraham.

Interrogative rainstorm.

Diminutive drops.

Complete compendium.

Dish rag, pearl purse, simple shard, plaster person,

perpetual pupil, dumb diamond, fleeting flare, settled sheets.

Demonstrates discord, dose, massive mimesis, dictated by gravity.

Outerwear alterity, polychromatic, mule movement manipulation.

Mediocre mount, isn't Italian, bare barrow unburnt, demonstrative demon.

Mapped metropolis city hell, no there here, twin peaks pubic polity.

Condo cupidity, wandering waters, boiled bullshit, mendacity managed.

License to bid biddies pleasant rebirth.

Milk for free, too tight, equivalence.

Bovine barter.

Also tautological.

Close to certain seals the deal, left dry,  
inches to an imminent incursion,  
sure sure scoring sanitized.

Stationary sex, orgasm outlawed, engulfing ecstasy, young laconic lay.

Temporal example solar circumference.

Every enmity erased and eclipsed.

Inhale umbrage, excised exhalation sheets of certainty,  
regulated reams, loyal look.

Fraternal frames, XY XX, a dwarfed dowry.

Festering filets figs fat-free, a snowbound subversive,  
shadowy sunset, a void.

A herald, a hard herald, a mere muffin,  
an insipid smile, a pulled proboscis.

Penultimate pepper some sundown soma,  
remove rambling, surprise sprint.

Eternal trinitarian, eventual utilitarian.

Tiny turn to tasty turnips.

Static statesmen.

Victory, maximum occupancy, present presents, discount drapes.

Raise the stage and wax the boards.