**Hold Like Owls**

Julia Koets  
**Foreword by Nikky Finney**

“Koets has a penchant for surprising metaphor. She possesses a personal delight for the highest flying verbs and their alluring descriptors. . . . I am grateful to this poet for this first book of poems. I am grateful for what she has taken the time to remind me of. She is just getting started. I applaud the alphabet spilling from her hands.”  
—Nikky Finney, author of *Head Off & Split*, from the foreword

Selected by 2011 National Book Award winner Nikky Finney as the seventh annual winner of the South Carolina Poetry Book Prize, *Hold Like Owls* is the first book-length collection from Julia Koets. Full of imagery deeply embedded in memories of growing up in the American South, Koets explores what it means to hold—to carry memories—and what to hold onto and what to let go. Birds turn into paper, a voice fits inside a chestnut shell, and moths eat stars through a woolen sky as the collection evokes nuance within the ordinary, reframes childhood memory, and engages the themes of the night, sensuality, and desire. Whether questioning personal histories, language, sexual identity, or love, the collection honors the “gentle corners of the night” that allow for questioning and uncertainty to exist.

*Winner of the South Carolina Poetry Book Prize*

March 2012, 80 pages

Published in cooperation with the South Carolina Poetry Initiative, University of South Carolina

Julia Koets holds an M.F.A. from the University of South Carolina. Her poetry has appeared in numerous journals, including *Indiana Review; Los Angeles Review; Euphony; and Cutthroat: A Journal of the Arts*. A native of Summerville, South Carolina, Koets currently lives in San Francisco.

**Method of payment:**

_____ Check or money order (payable to USC Press in United States dollars)

Credit Card: _____ American Express _____ Discover _____ Mastercard _____ Visa

Account number: _______________________________________ Exp. date: ________

Signature: ____________________________________________________________

Name (please print): ___________________________________ Phone: ____________

Shipping address: _______________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________

Send me ______ copy/copies  
(pb, 978-1-61117-084-9, $14.95 each) ______

SC residents add 7% sales tax ______

Shipping and handling* ______

TOTAL ______

*add $6.00 for first book, $2.00 for each additional book

718 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29208  
800-768-2500 • Fax 800-868-0740 • www.uscpress.com