

# Laura Riding

## *The Close Chaplet*

Edited by Mark Jacobs

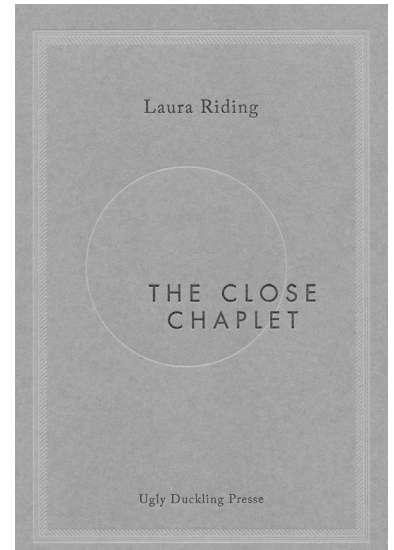
*The Close Chaplet* is Laura Riding's first book, long out of print, originally published in 1926. These poems demonstrate Riding's early desire to depart from "the close and well-tilled ground" of traditional lyric poetry. In his introduction, Mark Jacobs writes that Riding "identifies herself with the pre-moment, the 'what was there' before Creation." From this she begins to develop a theory about the role of women as the origin of all human beings, the only animals with written language. This edition also includes Riding's essay "A Prophecy or a Plea," a statement of her poetics initially published in the same year.

// Laura Riding was one of the most important English-speaking poets of the 20th century. In Jack Blackmore and Mark Jacobs her work has found the ideal editors and commentators.

— JOHN LUCAS

// I...derived considerable courage from Laura Riding's self-determination, and the proof this collection gives that those who refuse compromise or write what the public thinks it wants are not obliged to back down. Laura Riding is very brave.

— MARIANNE MOORE



Trade Paperback

Poetry | \$20

5.25" x 7.75" | 144 pp.

ISBN 978-1-946433-43-5

Lost Literature #28

Distributed by:  
Small Press Distribution

**Release Date: July 15, 2020**



**Laura Riding** was a poet, novelist, short-story writer, essayist, and publisher. While primarily known for the critical works that she co-authored with Robert Graves, Riding also left behind a powerful body of poetry and prose. She was awarded the Bollingen Prize in 1991, the same year she died.



**Mark Jacobs** is the editor of *Essays From Epilogue* by Riding and Graves (Carcanet), and has contributed introductions for new editions of her collected poems (Persea Books). He is also the editor of Trent Editions' Laura (Riding) Jackson series. He corresponded with Laura (Riding) Jackson for 20 years, visiting her at her home in Wabasso, Florida. His memoir on the visit is published in Jack Blackmore's *The Unthroned Oracle* (Mereo Books).

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