



Laura DiNovis Berry

Copyright © by Laura DiNovis Berry

First Edition published March 2020

Published by Indies United Publishing House, LLC

Cover art designed by YaYa Designs

All rights reserved worldwide. No part of this publication may be replicated, redistributed, or given away in any form without the prior written consent of the author/publisher or the terms relayed to you herein.

ISBN-13:978-1-64456-102-7

Library of Congress Control Number:2020931310



INDIES UNITED PUBLISHING HOUSE, LLC

P.O. BOX 3071

QUINCY, IL 62305-3071

[www.indiesunited.net](http://www.indiesunited.net)

This chapbook is dedicated to every player who has ever gotten the side eye and  
incredulous,  
"You play rugby?"  
Yes. We do.

As a big rugby fan, I loved the Egged Shaped Ball. The poems fitted nicely with the various aspects of the game and delivered punchy messages.

~ Brian Groves, poet

Berry's collection of poems reminds me a little bit of Kwame Alexander's *The Crossover*. What Kwame Alexander does with basketball as a metaphor for life and battling racism, so does Berry seem to be doing with rugby. There appears to be a nod toward some feminist themes related to women learning to be quick and wily in what is otherwise a "man's world." Also present throughout the collect is the idea of breaking loose from the way society defines what a woman is supposed to be.

The poetic structure is free verse. Berry employs sound devices like alliteration, onomatopoeia, and repetition to capture the experience of playing rugby. She also uses animal and earth imagery throughout the work. This, too, helps to capture the spirit of rugby.

Overall, her work is multi-layered, well-written, well-arranged, and contains clear thematic development throughout the collection.

~Timothy Baldwin, author

The poet was clever, very visual and touched some nerves!

~JuliaPicks1, Book Reviewer

## **Table of Contents**

*Dedication*

*Reviews*

Meet the Players

Failed Tackle

Always a Sub, Never a Start

Comet

Post Game Revelry

Running With White Horses

Snowglobe

First Contact

A Rugby Player Scoffs At Victim Blaming After Being Tackled Repeatedly

By The Men On Her Team

The Breakaway

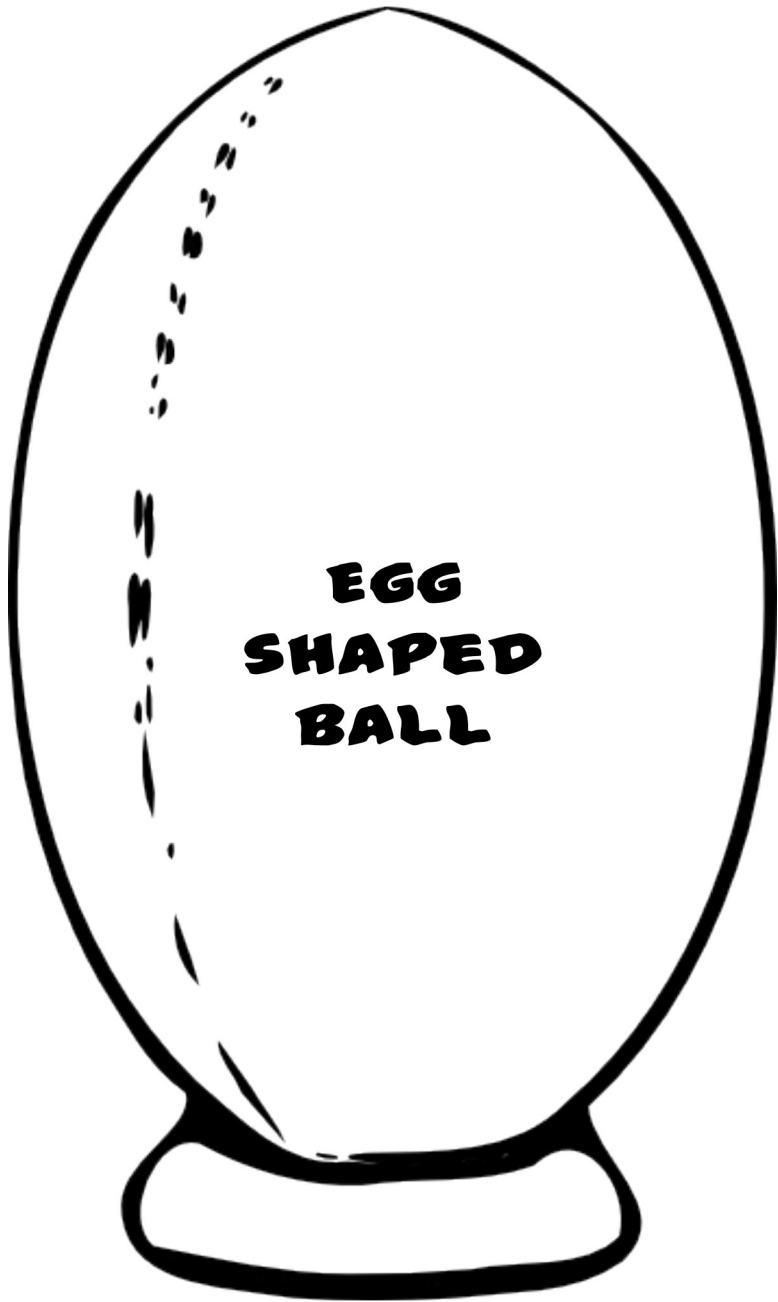
Bruises Are Medals

A.R. (After Rugby)

Snowstorm on the Pitch

Egg Shaped Ball

About the Poet



## Failed Tackle

Ready now. Steady.

Watch the hips - not their eyes!

Unlock your muscles. SNAP as cobras do.

Grit teeth to plastic. Fingers slip over fabric.

Dirt in your grasp instead of flesh.

Break into panic.

Despair.

Breathe, breathe, recover.

Yes, you will rush again.

You must.

## About The Poet

After having once been forced by circumstance to ignore poetry, Laura DiNovis Berry has since dedicated her life to it. She has fallen madly, deeply in love with this craft.

In addition to writing poetry, Berry also provides free reviews at Berry's Poetry Book Reviews for her fellow poets in hopes that modern poetry can be shared with a wider audience.