

Also by Susan Noble and published  
by Aesop Publications, Oxford, UK:

**Poetry:**

*Collected Poems*  
*The Dream of Stairs: A Poem  
Cycle*  
*Inside the Stretch of My Heart*  
*Before and After the Darkness*

**Fiction:**

*Drifting Between Empty Tramlines*  
(a novel)

*Visit online at:*

[www.aesopbooks.com/  
susannoble](http://www.aesopbooks.com/susannoble)  
[www.aesopbooks.com/  
collectedpoems](http://www.aesopbooks.com/collectedpoems)  
[www.aesopbooks.com/  
dreamofstairs](http://www.aesopbooks.com/dreamofstairs)  
[www.aesopbooks.com/  
driftingbetweenemptytramlines](http://www.aesopbooks.com/driftingbetweenemptytramlines)  
[www.aesopbooks.com/  
flockofblackbirds](http://www.aesopbooks.com/flockofblackbirds)  
[www.aesopbooks.com/  
insidestretchofmyheart](http://www.aesopbooks.com/insidestretchofmyheart)  
[www.aesopbooks.com/  
beforeandafterdarkness](http://www.aesopbooks.com/beforeandafterdarkness)

**A Flock of Blackbirds** is a selection of short stories and novellas written by Susan Noble, who died in 1974 at the age of 31.

Susan's output of fiction and poetry in the final ten years of her life was prolific and to mark the fortieth anniversary of her death, the stories in this volume are being published for the first time, together with four volumes of her poetry (*The Dream of Stairs: A Poem Cycle*, *Inside the Stretch of My Heart*, *Before and After the Darkness* and *Collected Poems*) and her novel *Drifting Between Empty Tramlines*.

Susan's exceptional sensitivity was reflected not only in the outpouring of poems in *The Dream of Stairs* and *Inside the Stretch of My Heart*, but also in the short stories that make up this collection. In these haunting, poignant stories, she chronicles her personal response to the world around her, while vividly portraying the inner landscape of her mental and emotional struggle.

Many of the stories are triggered by the quotidian experience of living and working in central London in the late 1960s and early 1970s, yet beneath the fragile surface of acute observations of city life, intensely spiritual insights are played out, sometimes delicately, sometimes shockingly, but always movingly.

Profits from the sales of all six volumes are being donated to three charities: Mind, the Samaritans and Sane.

Front and back cover photographs:  
'Red-winged Blackbird Flock over Field'  
by Mike Dunn (Roads End Naturalist),  
[http://roadsendnaturalist.wordpress.com/  
tag/red-winged-blackbirds](http://roadsendnaturalist.wordpress.com/tag/red-winged-blackbirds)  
reproduced by kind permission.



A FLOCK OF BLACKBIRDS

SUSAN NOBLE

AESOP  
Modern  
Oxford

# A FLOCK OF BLACKBIRDS

SHORT  
STORIES  
BY

SUSAN  
NOBLE

AESOP Modern

*About the author*

Brought up in South London, Susan Noble, was the second of three children. Her childhood was enriched by being part of a large and closely-knit Jewish family. Unfortunately stricken by polio (then known as infantile paralysis) in her early years, Susan went through life with a degree of physical handicap which she was to overcome with courage and determination.

Educated at Croydon High School, Susan studied English at Somerville College, Oxford. After graduating, she worked in London, first at the Royal National Institute for the Blind, dictating books for transcription into Braille, and later at the National Central Library in London, where she qualified as a Chartered Librarian.

Facsimiles of some of the original typescripts and manuscripts that make up this book are available online at:

[www.aesopbooks.com/susannoble](http://www.aesopbooks.com/susannoble)

ISBN: 978-1-910301-04-3