



# 2021 CATALOG

*Madville Publishing*

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## ***This Fierce Afterglow***

by Sweb Lovitt

978-1-948692-70-0 paper 16 .95

978-1-948692-71-7 ebook 9.99

6 x 9, 68 pp.

Poetry

January 2021

This *Fierce Afterglow*, by Sweb Lovitt, contains selected poems from his earlier collection, *Sometimes the World is Too Beautiful* along with 33 new poems. Lovitt's guiding dictum comes from Ezra Pound: "only emotion endures." These are poems of family and the day-to-day in the world, all the while burning up in the atmosphere.

**SWEB LOVITT** was born and raised in Mississippi. After college, he worked for 30 years in Memphis and now resides in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He played college golf and took a Masters in Modern European History from the University of Southern Mississippi. His publications include two volumes, *A Boy's Face with Swan Wings*, and *Sometimes the World is Too Beautiful*, and 75 poems in magazines and literary journals including: *The Texas Review*, *Mississippi Review*, *Poem*, and *Visions-International*. Lovitt has two grown sons and a daughter, each with poems of their own.



## ***Terrible Sanity***

by Sam Pickering

978-1-948692-52-6 paper 19.95

978-1-948692-53-3 ebook 9.99

5½ x 8½, 294 pp.

essays

January 2021

***Terrible Sanity*** is wondrous sanity. Pickering's essays are acetaminophen for hippish days. "Life doesn't have a neat beginning and a tidy end," Roger, a character in V. S. Naipaul's *Half a Life*, says. "Life is always going on." In this collection, Pickering depicts the joy and sadness of life's going on. He observes that great knowledge often brings small pleasure while the small knowledge that all people experience brings great pleasure. A dental hygienist tells him that every day patients greet her on the street and in stores. "Their faces are always unfamiliar, and I never recognize them," she says, "but if they opened their mouths wide, I'd know them immediately."



**SAM PICKERING** was born and raised in Nashville, but he has spent the past fifty years of his life living and teaching in New England, mostly at the University of Connecticut. He resembles an old tree knobby with burls of books and worm holed by hundreds of articles and reviews but thriving, host to greening mosses, startling polypore funguses, and to paragraphs rich with observations and thoughts. "Writing," he wrote, "has enriched, if not made my life—not quite as enriching as dressing a field with manure, but nevertheless enabling me to harvest almost endless nourishing days. I hope my pages will similarly perk up readers' curiosities if not their digestions. If they don't fancy corn or compone, maybe apples will do. 'Of all the delicacies which Britons try / To please the palate or delight the eye,' William King wrote at the end of the seventeenth century. 'Of all the sev'ral kinds of sumptuous fare, / There is none that can with Apple pie compare.'"



## ***Daughters of Bone*** by ***Jessica Temple***

978-1-948692-48-9 paper 16.95

978-1-948692-49-6 ebook 9.99

6x9, 80 pp.

Poetry

February 2021

*Daughters of Bone* explores the landscapes and people of the South. Drawing on personal and collective history, these poems explore the relationships between place, people, history, culture, and language. Subjects include family and relationships, especially between women of different generations, means of handling grief, and travel and return. Photographs or physical objects often work as keys to memories of events or people from the past. Particular locations or landscapes likewise serve as reminders. This

collection questions the meaning of "home" and "family." It mythologizes the author's own history as she searches for her place within it.

**JESSICA TEMPLE** earned her PhD in poetry from Georgia State University. She co-directs the syndicated poetry college radio program melodically challenged and teaches at Alabama A&M University. Her work has appeared in *Thema*; *Crab Orchard Review*; *Canyon Voices*; and *Stone, River, Sky: An Anthology of Georgia Poems* among others. She authored the chapbook *Seamless and Other Legends* (Finishing Line Press, 2013). She was named Alabama State Poetry Society's 2019 Poet of the Year. Find out more at [jessicatemple.com](http://jessicatemple.com).

*DAUGHTERS OF BONE* strikes me as a claiming: of self, of personal history, and of the voice to speak of these things. Few poets have the ability to simultaneously evoke the particularities of their own lives and draw a reader in to make it hers as well, but Jessica Temple made me feel welcome, at home in these poems. I know these women, and I know these places. The myths we live by—inherited, created, reshaped—figure large in this book, but are, rightly, built of the smallest

details: weevils and rented wheelchairs, an old foot locker and a cassette tape, a double-wide and a family reunion. Temple's intense engagement with words and their histories reveals how we make the world with the stories we tell, and with the beauty of their telling.

—Jennifer Horne, Alabama Poet Laureate  
and author of *Borrowed Light*, *Little Wanderer*, & *Bottle Tree*



## ***Once Before Sunset***

David Deutsch

978-1-948692-56-4 paper 18.95

978-1-948692-57-1 ebook 9.99

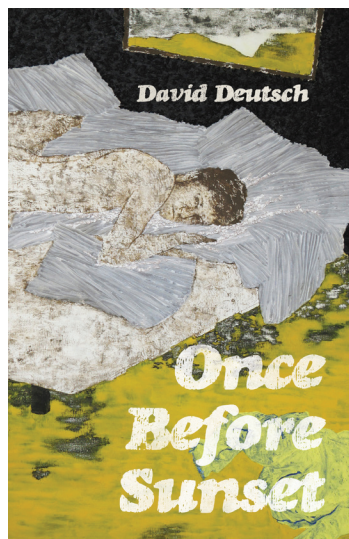
5½ x 8½, 200 pp.

Fiction

March 2021

You can always start again, and stories can always be retold to make new meanings. In *Once Before Sunset*, Will Belicor wanders through small-town New Hampshire, Princeton, and Amsterdam like a medieval knight errant, reworking old narrative traditions to reassess his aristocratic New England upbringing and his increasing desire for other men. As medieval knights sought religious ecstasy through encounters with hermits, locked-up lovers, and foreign lands, Will turns to exiled intellectuals, feverish crushes, and the city of Amsterdam to establish his own moral guidelines.

DAVID DEUTSCH studied medieval literature early in his career and now writes cultural studies of British literature, classical music, and queer American poetry and prose. In his own fiction, he prefers to take a break from historical subjects so as to explore actions and events that never quite happened but that have moral resonances within contemporary gay life. At present, he is working on a monograph on twenty-first-century American gay painting and a second novel set in New York and Oxford that focuses on modern classical music and genetics.





## ***Fairview Chronicles (book 2): The Case of Josie White***

written by Johnathan Paul,  
illustrated by Andrew Dunn

978-1-948692-66-3 paper 19.95

978-1-948692-67-0 ebook 9.99

6x9, 200 pp.

Fiction

October 2021

*Fairview Chronicles: The Case of Josie White* explores a young woman's disappearance from the mysterious town of Fairview. Meanwhile, picking up where the previous book left off, Randall Covington teams up with Deputy Nick Faraday and Scientist Tim Hollis to uncover the truth behind Josie's disappearance. What they uncover is more than they bargained for as they come face to face with legendary beasts and mystical forces.

**JOHNATHAN PAUL** is an award-winning Texas filmmaker, screenwriter and artist. His work as a freelance illustrator and concept artist led him to experimental film, 3D animation, and documentary film making. Johnathan wrote the first story set in the fictional town of Fairview in 1998 and has quietly expanded that world ever since. *Fairview Chronicles* is the first of many titles set in this fantastic universe filled with mystical horrors. He is a Professor at the University of North Texas where he teaches film production, visual effects and screenwriting. He also has a long history as a journalist and op-ed writer, having written for various film industry websites. Among his greatest influences are Stephen King, Steven Spielberg, J.R.R. Tolkien, H.P. Lovecraft, and Terry Gilliam.

**ANDREW DUNN** is an award-winning art director, illustrator, and graphic designer. His work as a comic illustrator and concept artist led him to connecting with Johnathan Paul while in college. From that point on, Andrew has worked as the art director for many films and as the lead artist on *Fairview Chronicles* since 2007. His draftsmanship has grown through the years and has been influenced by artists such as Kenneth Rocafort, Greg Capullo, and Fiona Staples among others.

Also in this series:

### ***Fairview Chronicles (book 1): A Wayward Proposition***

978-1-948692-10-6 paper 18.95

978-1-948692-11-3 ebook 9.99

6x9, ~208 pp.

Fiction

(January 2020)



## *Heirloom Language*

by Barbara E. Young

978-1-948692-54-0 paper 16.95

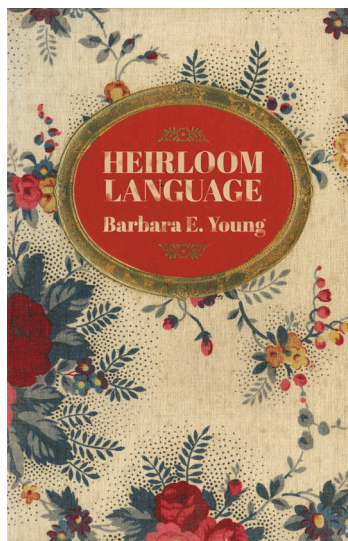
978-1-948692-55-7 ebook 9.99

6x9, 104 pp.

Poetry

May 2021

These are poems about life and dying, growing up and growing old; about how being loved transcends endings, and how sometimes anger and irony are ways of expressing love. I sometimes describe myself as a short-attention-span novelist, and my poems as stories, chapters, characters, notes—trying to make sense of our life. But reality is defiantly chaotic, and makes some poems partial truths, jokes, or outright lies. It isn't their fault. That's how things worked out.



**BARBARA E. YOUNG** was born in a Nashville, Tennessee that was nothing like today's city. She wrote poetry in high school, won a contest with a disappointing prize, went away to a small Baptist college. The nineteen-seventies are a blank during which she gave up writing in the belief that poetry should have something important to say, and she had nothing. Years later she discovered writing prompts, decided that important things were over-rated, and eventually—having found no other calling—began to admit to being a poet. She, husband Jim, and their two cats live in White Bluff, near Nashville.



## *What a Wonderful World This Could Be*

by Lee Zacharias

978-1-948692-50-2 paper 19.95

978-1-948692-51-9 ebook 9.99

6x9, 360 pp.

Fiction

June 2021

What Alex, illegitimate daughter of an alcoholic novelist and an artist, has always wanted is family. At 15, she falls in love with a 27-year-old photographer, whom she will leave when she comes under the spell of Ted Neal, a charismatic activist on his way to Mississippi for 1964's Freedom Summer. That fall Ted organizes a collective that turns to the growing antiwar movement. Ultimately the radical



group Weatherman destroys the “family” Alex and Ted have created, and in 1971 Ted disappears while under FBI investigation. When Ted surfaces eleven years later, Alex must put her life back together in order to discover what true family means.

LEE ZACHARIAS is the author of three previous novels, *Lessons*, *At Random*, and *Across the Great Lake*, a 2019 Notable Michigan Book, as well as a collection of stories, *Helping Muriel Make It Through the Night*, and a collection of essays, *The Only Sounds We Make*. She has received two silver medals from the Independent Book Publisher Awards, won North Carolina’s Sir Walter Raleigh Award, and held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council. Her work has been reprinted and frequently cited in the annual volumes of *The Best American Essays*. You can read more about her at [www.leezacharias.com](http://www.leezacharias.com).

Lee Zacharias is one of those profoundly rare writers, a natural. Her voice is one you can trust, and her characters are real, moving, and come from the experience of someone who knows what trouble human beings get themselves into.

—Craig Nova, author of *The Good Son*

*Across the Great Lake*

Fern is precocious, yet she’s in no way precious, cloying, or cute. She’s quite simply herself and that alone makes this a beautiful novel. Still, that isn’t half of what this gem offers. It’s packed with the fascinating history of northern Michigan, ferries, shipwrecks, icebreakers, and all things nautical. It also offers the best of literary novels, with foreshadowing and pacing that roar toward the anticipated, yet haunting conclusion.

—Hungry for Good Books?

In *Across the Great Lake*, the exquisite new novel by Lee Zacharias, Fern, now 85, recalls the journey that marked her life. What happened on the Manitou in the cold February of 1936 haunts her, and those who read her story will also not soon forget it... This is a wise book, written with uncommon care. Not unlike the great lake of its title, this story has much to discover beneath its surface.

—Linda C. Brinson, *Greensboro News and Record* and *Winston-Salem Journal*

Zacharias pulls off a neat trick, writing the perspective both of a 5-year-old and of a woman in her 80s, remembering the most vivid days of her life... Some of the passages approach poetry. Few writers have given such a palpable sense of how sharp and how painful childhood memories can be. Zacharias takes us back, in more ways than one.

—Ben Steelman, *Wilmington Star News*

“Haunting” is a word that comes to mind as I reflect on Lee Zacharias’ new novel. Set largely in the 1930s on Lake Michigan and the harbor town of Frankfort, *Across the Great Lake* is the narrator’s vivid, jagged, time-bending recollection of her childhood and the trajectory set by one of the central events of her life... Zacharias carefully guides both Fern and me through this meandering, perilous journey without losing either one of us.

—Fran Wescott, Resource Center for Women & Ministry in the South, Inc.

## Sonju

by Wondra Chang

978-1-948692-58-8 paper 19.95

978-1-948692-59-5 ebook 9.99

5½ x 8½, 250 pp.

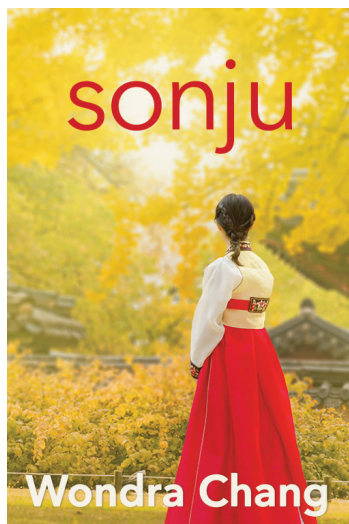
Fiction

July 2021

After she defies the rigid, oppressive Confucian tradition of order and conformity, Sonju descends from an aristocratic upbringing to working at a men's club. In spite of social condemnations and personal tragedies, her determination to be her own person never wavers.

Sonju's life takes a turn when her mother marries her off to a man from a wealthy farming clan rather than allowing her to marry the man she loves. Set against the historical background of the humiliating Japanese occupation and the horrors of the Korean War, Sonju portrays one woman's journey to personal liberation.

**WONDRA CHANG** was born in South Korea and has lived in the U.S. since 1970. Her writing discipline began at age ten, writing five short stories a day under the tutelage of a writing teacher. She won first place in a province-wide in-person writing competition. She studied journalism at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, Korea. She currently lives in San Antonio, Texas.



## A Woman's Story

by Francine Rodriguez

978-1-948692-60-1 paper 19.95

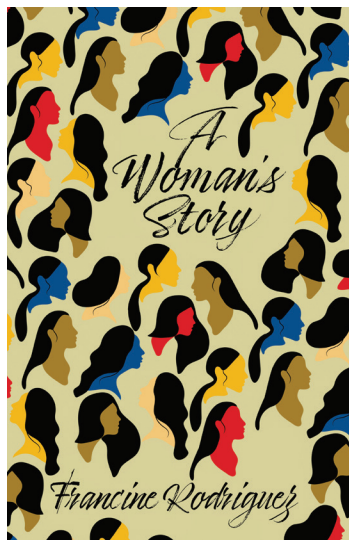
978-1-948692-61-8 ebook 9.99

5½ x 8½, 294 pp.

fiction

August 2021

The stories of these Latina women's lives depict conflict in gender bias, experiences of exploitation, violence, and powerlessness, sometimes resulting in pain and despair in their turbulent worlds. But these stories also tell of these women's celebrations of life itself that empowers them and gives them the will to sustain. These stories resonate on a deeply emotional level.



**FRANCINE RODRIGUEZ** grew up in and around the skid row area of downtown Los Angeles and later worked as a Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Investigator in the Federal sector. All told, she has practiced law and psychology for over thirty years, and her experiences



in these fields inform her writing. She has published two previous novels, *A Fortunate Accident* (Booklocker 2015), and *A Woman Like Me* (Booklocker 2019), and her short fiction appears in numerous literary journals. Her website is [FrancineRodriguezAuthor.com](http://FrancineRodriguezAuthor.com)



## ***Being Home***

edited by Sam Pickering  
& Bob Kunzinger

978-1-948692-62-5 paper 19.95

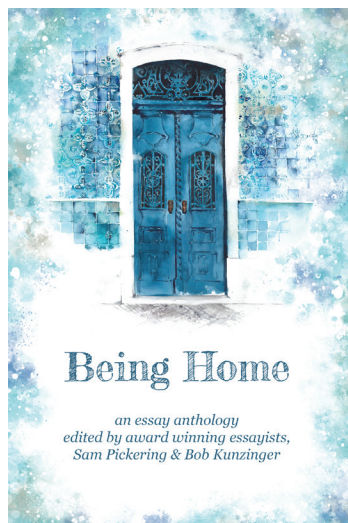
978-1-948692-63-2 ebook 9.99

6x9, 200 pp.

Essay Anthology

September 2021

*Being Home* is about the spirit of place, the juncture of memory and emotions. It is different for everyone; it is different for members of the same family, and it most likely has nothing to do with where you were born or grew up. Award-winning essayists Sam Pickering and Bob Kunzinger selected the essays for this collection, favoring essays about being home where setting becomes character, where time becomes the antagonist, and where we make our most important discoveries. These are not quarantine, stay in place, Covid-19 essays.



### **CONTRIBUTORS:**

Johnnie Bernhard • Rick Campbell • Maryah Converse • Susan Delgado Watts • John Flynn • Debra Frank • Karin Hedetniemi • Anndee Hochman • Richard Holinger • Jamie Hughes • Robert Iulo • Kyle Ingrid Johnson • Judy Johnson • Deb Liggett • Mel Livatino • Geoffrey Martin • Robert Miltner • Vicky Oliver • Lea Page • Rhonda Ray • Claude Clayton Smith • Marsha Lynn Smith • Bill Stifler • Elizabeth Templeman • Elaine Terranova • Lee Zacharias • Madelaine Zadik

### **THE EDITORS:**

**SAM PICKERING** spent 67 years in classrooms learning and teaching and has long been a rummager and writer wandering New England and the South, the Mid-East, Britain, Australia, and Canada. He has written some thirty books.

**BOB KUNZINGER** is the author of eight collections of non-fiction, and has been widely published in publications such as *World War Two History*, *Southern Humanities Review*, the *Washington Post*, *St Anthony Messenger*, and more, including notations for essays in *Best American Essays*.



## Alegría

by Emi Wright

978-1-948692-40-3 paper 16.95

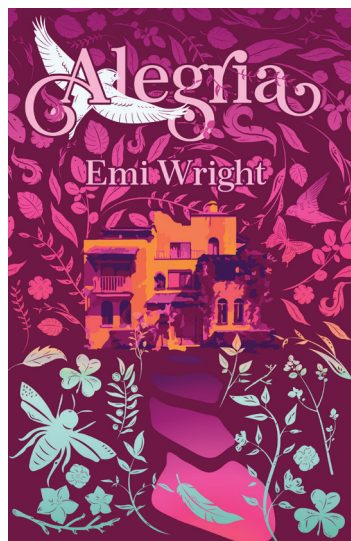
978-1-948692-41-0 ebook 9.99

6x9, 336 pp.

Fiction

October 2021

Alegría's family struggles to keep afloat amid secrets as she develops narcolepsy, a sleeping disorder that disrupts her nights and dulls her days. In a fantastical world where dead grandmothers come to visit and witch doctors prescribe waking concoctions, young Alegría discovers the secrets behind her namesake and the imperfections within her family. When the wind blows and the rains come, will she be able to keep her family together?



A powerful and impassioned novel based out of hope, loss, and of finding one's place in the world. Through breathtaking descriptions and elegant prose, *A Myriad of Dreams* shows a girl's mystical journey through its enchanting moves, and it's graceful telling of life's search for faith, acceptance, and clarity."

—Jasmine Robinson, author of *Stony the Road we Trod*

Drenched in the witchdoctor mojo of the world she's conjured, Wright's *Alegría* is the hundred-year dream-flood of a lifetime. Where daughters are named for their mother's drowned sisters, and ghosts walk hand in hand with the living, as fine a debut as you'll ever see. Bravo."

—Michael Gills, author of  
*Burning Down My Father's House*



## Taboos & Transgressions

edited by Luanne Smith,  
Kerri Beth Neville, & Devi Laskar

978-1-948692-64-9 paper 20 .95

978-1-948692-65-6 ebook 9.99

6x9, 300 pp.

Fiction Anthology

April 2021



***Taboos and Transgressions: Stories of Wrongdoings*** is an anthology focused on breaking the rules featuring stories by Pam Houston, Bonnie Jo Campbell, Joyce Carol Oates, and Kim Addonizio alongside emerging writers. The anthology offers a scope of voices, styles, stories and wrongdoings. From infidelity to family prejudices, from breaking the law to broken promises, from losing everything to finding empowerment, characters in these pieces offer a look at stepping over the line in all too human ways.

EDITED BY LUANNE SMITH, DEVI LASKER AND KERRY BETH NEVILLE, the anthology represents the best of both solicited and unsolicited work.

Unsolicited material has been read by JUDGE MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN and prizes awarded to one winning story and two runners up.



## ***A Quiver in the Purlieu***

by Amit Verma

978-1-948692-68-7 paper 18 .95

978-1-948692-69-4 ebook 9.99

5½ x 8½, 294 pp.

Fiction

November 2021

A book flies away as soon as it's completed, defining a pivotal point in the life-arch of the protagonist. This life-arch also features a banyan tree growing in Canada, a bar in semi-rural U.S.A., a sliver of time in an idyllic, isolated village in India, a bored billionaire playing the stock market, a comic book princess, and an interstellar spaceship journey. All this takes place in a universe that's ever-expanding.



AMIT VERMA is a resident of Houston, TX, where he divides his time among things he is passionate about, including molding captive impressionable minds and conducting research as a professor in Electrical Engineering, a perfect family, and a never perfect yard. His two works on literary fiction, *The Lives and The Times*, and *The Lives and The Times II* have been variously called, “rare find,” a “page-turner,” and “...is refreshing and does a humorous take on some of the pressing issues...”



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Our mission is to present language in a playful, imaginative way. English is our first language, but we adore code switching and regionalisms from around the world. Our catalog straddles borders. While our authors often hail from the English-speaking academic community, our audience extends beyond the narrow confines of the academy into the popular market. Our fiction offerings, in particular, tend to stray into adventurous, fantastic, and dystopian realities.

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