



Nodin Press

5114 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN, 55416

Contact Norton Stillman (952) 546-6300 / Fax (952) 546-6303

nstill4402@aol.com

Threshold

New and Selected Poems

Cary Waterman

The stages in Cary Waterman's career as a poet and teacher have been mileposted by the publication of a succession of fine collections dating back to 1975. She has now gathered together the best individual poems from each of these books, along with a robust sampling of her most recent work, into one attractive book. From the very first, we pick up on a mysterious earthy something—the call of an owl?—that establishes a tension between wild and domestic. We'll meet up with that tension again and again in subsequent pages, from a graphic scene of butchering pigs to, decades later, a lengthy poem sequence recounting Persephone's descent into the underworld.

There are moments to set the reader on edge—*In the marriage blender we have been set on chip*—but there are plenty of quiet moments, too, and sheer silliness. In one poem

*the difficult life of almost everything
curls into a smile at our front door*

In another

*When my book bores me
I listen to the birds.
They tell me their predictions for July and August.*

Making elderberry jam becomes both a heroic and an erotic experience, an acupuncture treatment is transformed into a spiritual ordeal. Perhaps Robert Bly said it best: "As an artist she insists that she will not let a descriptive line stand unless an inner concern of her own has broken through it..."

Cary Waterman is the author of six books of poems, including *The Salamander Migration* (University of Pittsburgh Press), *When I Looked Back You Were Gone* (Holy Cow! Press), and *Book of Fire* (Nodin Press). Her poems have been included in numerous anthologies and have been awarded prizes in the Federico Garcia Lorca Poetry Contest, the Rash Awards, the *Common Ground Review* Poetry Contest and *So To Speak*, the feminist journal from George Mason University. She has been awarded fellowships by several foundations and has also received the Loft-McKnight Award of Distinction in Poetry. She has taught at many colleges and universities, most recently in the MFA Program at Augsburg University. She lives in St. Paul.

ISBN: 978-1-947237-10-0 / \$17.00

◆ NODIN PRESS : MINNEAPOLIS ◆