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Musings of a Meandering Poet

poems

Ted Bowman

This collection offers readers an assortment of poems and prose pieces drawn from several phases of the author's life. Some offer personal reflections on childhood experiences, others probe the emotions and moral valences of recent family occurrences. Bird songs rub shoulders with political events in Ireland, ducks on a pond give way to rainy days in the mountains. A section of brief "there and then" poems merge recollections of scary places, visiting relatives, and the innocent thrill of receiving gifts. The final section consists of a journal of laments on the death of the author's wife and grandson and explorations of the tentative joys of learning to dance again in the midst of grief.

The poetry is casual, unforced, sometime almost stream-of-consciousness. An element of curiosity and openness surfaces repeatedly, and also a sensitivity to those zones of life that are likely to remain mysterious. In one poem a casual description of car repairs leads to insights about how to realign aspects of the poet's own daily routines. The entire collection, in fact, might be described as an effort to appreciate life's straight and narrow roads and also the hazards and opportunities presented by curves, intersections, and other drivers.

About the Author

Ted Bowman grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He moved to Minnesota in 1977. He has been a grief and family educator for more than fifty years, and has spoken to many groups throughout Minnesota, the United States, and other countries. Ted has taught at the University of Minnesotan, Saint Thomas, and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Ambiguous Parables: Poems and Prose of Loss and Renewal* (Nodin Press: 2021.

Ted is the father and stepfather of four children and a grandfather of five "grand" children, four alive and one dead but alive in memory and love. His wife, Marge, died in July 2020.

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