In closing here are four haiku from this compassionate and transcendental collection:

sweet grass
a newborn calf
nuzzling her mother

what's a slaughter tag, mommy?

her face, her gaze
that one could be
my mother now

make no mistake
they too desire
what you & I do


Reviewed by Tom Clausen

Haiku are by nature a compressed form of poetry and in contractions by kjmunro you will find a collection of 90 haiku and senryu that provide an eclectic slice of life.

With superb economy and concision, worthy of the title, kjmunro takes us on a candid tour of her life, delivering poetic experiences with insight.

first date sweating spicy burrito

the view
from the high diving board
I saw it once
Arranged with one poem to a page there are pairings of poems juxtaposed across the page from each other that create a strong internal connection with an enhanced sense of understanding and compassion.

folding chairs
uncomfortable
at the grief workshop

winter morning—
porridge in the pot
breathing

Throughout contractions there is an indelible stamp of living in the Yukon, the wounds of loss, and the stretch marks of life. This collection touches high and low and will stay with you long after you have read it.

spring cleaning
paw prints of the dog
no longer with us

her room
as she left it
the dream catcher stirs

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oars up by Joe McKeon, 2019 Red Moon Press ISBN 878-1-947271-35-7. $15.00

Reviewed by Tom Clausen

Joe McKeon in oars up brilliantly recaptures the breadth of his life, from growing up—coming of age on through his adult life of family and work. The collection is remarkable for both poignant directness and a rewarding range of memory detail.