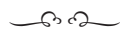


This collection, and truly any of his collections, provides a communion with what he has found spiritual, meaningful and precious in his life. In reading these poems I felt a subtle yet sure sense of the world-my world slowing down. In some of his previous collections Martone has presented his poems in a vertical stretched out fashion where words would be 'broken' in pieces as you read down. The effect was a wonderful 'taking time' to savor each poem. Although *postmark* does not present poems in a vertical format the 'taking your time' is still in place! It is a gift to spend time with poems that so deftly convey the gentleness and refined wonder of John Martone.

I take off my glasses  
*in morning mist*  
it's perfect

*life-vest*  
in a closet's depths

*sits outside in his chair*  
remember him that way



*Half in Light, Half in the Shade: Haiku and Senryu* by Olivier Schopfer, 2019, \$15 , Cyberwit.net, ISBN: 978-93-89074-01-7

*Reviewed by Tom Clausen*

Swiss poet, Olivier Schopfer's third collection, *Half in Light, Half in the Shade: Haiku and Senryu*, is a polished and eclectic collection of poems that displays Schopfer's keen eye for detail and humility to how life is a mix of light and shade.

the doctor's  
illegible prescription  
winter rain

church steps  
a homeless man  
begging my pardon

With two poems per each of 52 pages and with two sections, titled Inside and Outside, there are eleven poems included in this collection that have received awards.

From the back cover: “He finds inspiration while walking in nature or strolling through the streets of big cities like London and Paris. He likes to capture the moment in haiku and photography. “

There is a welcome range of subjects, observations, emotions, tones and consistently poems that are concise and accessible. I found after reading this collection slowly, cover to cover, and then in random revisits a sense of growing appreciation for several poems that I had ‘missed’ on my first reading.

last train home  
my reflection  
stowaway

day moon  
out of the subway entrance  
a saxophone solo

In closing a couple personal favorites from this recommended collection:

from flower to flower  
unfaithful too  
the butterfly

alpine cow bells  
each with its own notes  
summer dawn