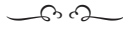


latest disguise
an old man feeding
pigeons in the park



Reflections of a Gardener. En trädgårdsmästares tankar. Haiku by Teresa Wennberg (2019, Fri Press, Sweden) 59 pages, 5" x 8.25". perfect softbound. ISBN 978-91-88765-21-5. www.fripress.se

Reviewed by Jay Friedenber

Reflections of a Gardener is a collection of fifty-two poems in English and Swedish by Teresa Wennberg. Teresa is an itinerant world traveler and artist. She has been writing for nearly a half century and experimenting with various forms of artistic expression. She was one of the founding members of the Swedish Haiku Society in 1999. This book is a collection of mostly nature themed works. In a: *gusty spring of wind/lightly touching my hair/loosens the flower*, we gently apprehend the shared connection between people and nature. This poem is especially nice because of the way it uses the wind to link the subject and object. The contrast of the high and the low is done very effectively in: *grey autumn morning/pewter and gold shimmering/down in the gutter*. Here the beauty and poignancy of the fall season are shown by a simple color and hence mood comparison. My favorite though is: *butterflies playing/no - white snowflakes dancing now/in my winter yard*. Other haiku have conveyed a shift in perception where one image is seen one way and then another, but this is the best I have ever seen it done. The transition between the two mental images is seamless and perfect. This is a solid collection of haiku based on interesting observation with some psychological and spiritual insight. A delightful read.

