

The penultimate poem of the book, a tanka, brings a certain closure. We find acceptance and make room for what comes next:

holding you
for a long moment
by the forest creek
the water reminds me
to let go

Those who enjoyed *Unplugged* will enjoy *A Lost Prophet* with its spiritual longing that is framed somewhere between the afterworld and an ageless inner world.

campfire embers . . .
my mother's voice
drifting to sleep

REVIEWED BY NICHOLAS KLACSANZKY

Sōseki Natsume's Collected Haiku: 1,000 Verses from Japan's Most Popular Writer edited by Erik Lofgren (Tuttle Publishing, Rutland, VT: 2025). 312 pages, hardcover. ISBN: 978-4-8053-1845-4. \$19.99 from tuttlepublishing.com and online booksellers.

Natsume Sōseki (1867–1916) is primarily known as one of Japan's greatest modern novelists, though with Sōseki having been an avid student of Masaoki Shiki, he helped legitimize haiku as a modern literary form during the Meiji period. While most Western readers are familiar with Sōseki as the author of *I Am a Cat*, *Botchan*, and *Kokoro*, this collection delves into his origins as a poet and expands his literary legacy into the realm of haiku. It's a compelling reminder of his versatile craft and offers insight into his range. Looking at the price, \$19.99 on the Tuttle Publishing website, reading 1,000 haiku from a legendary writer whose haiku is relatively unknown in the West is a steal. Here are some haiku

from the collection that illustrate the style of Sōseki and the translator's panache (mostly translated as two lines):

mountain ascetics lined up at the checkpoint;
plum blossoms

stagnant vermilion water in an inkstone
a butterfly slakes its thirst

deep within the forsythia;
the click of playing a go stone

an invalid leaves the foot-warming table
snowfall viewing

Since the translator, Erik R. Lofgren, is a recognized expert on Sōseki's work and left many of the Japanese cultural terms in the haiku unchanged, this collection is an excellent way to learn more not only about Sōseki's oeuvre but also about Japanese life. The book is also organized by seasons and even has a section for non-seasonal haiku. Finally, the translator was kind enough to offer accompanying online audio recordings of the haiku in the collection in English and Japanese. *Sōseki Natsume's Collected Haiku* is a goldmine not only for those learning more about haiku, as it explores seasonal references and haiku history, but also for academics who are interested in diving into the work of one of Shiki's students and whose haiku has been rarely seen in the West.

REVIEWED BY DANIEL SHANK CRUZ

Crazy Bitches: Selected Haibun by Roberta Beary (MacQ, Winston-Salem, NC: 2025). 128 pages, perfect softbound. ISBN: 978-8-3305-6606-8. \$25.00 from online booksellers.

Roberta Beary, who splits time between the USA and Ireland and is *Modern Haiku's* haibun editor, is a giant of English-language