

touch of light by Jeannie Martin (2019, Red Moon Press, Winchester, VA) 83 pages, 4 1/4" x 6 1/2", Four-color card covers, perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-947271-46-3. \$15.00 from redmoonpress.com

Reviewed by Tom Clausen

touch of light is a providential haiku field guide for beginners and seasoned poets alike. Readers will find a beautiful Swallowtail cover photo by Robin White and a delightful selection of playful and poignant haiku by author Jeannie Martin and vincent tripi. Interspersed throughout the collection are a variety of quotes that highlight a series of questions and prompts. Communing with this book is to recognize what a celebration of haiku insight is all about!

In an opening *Invitation* section there is a compelling anecdote about when Dr. George Washington Carver was asked how he knew so much about the peanut. He famously replied, "You have to love it. Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough."

Jeannie then adds: "What does the natural world teach us?" Her reflective response:

"Deep appreciation and care encourages us to love, and through this love to see Nature, and ourselves, more clearly. Through haiku poetry we see, and experience, the simplicity of the everyday world-the natural world that beckons and calls us to be engaged in ways that both comfort and sustain."

In equal turns illustrative, meditative, educational, instructive, and inspirational this collection is brimming with haiku spirit and essence. The series of prompts and questions throughout *touch of light* serve as examples of centering activities and how each day can be an opportunity to explore one's environment inside out through a haiku lens.

Jeannie's haiku field book is a magnificent gift to present to anyone with a love of nature or an awakening sense of communing with nature and writing haiku.

In closing some selected favorite haiku by Jeannie and vince
(his 31 haiku in *'touch of light'* are in *italics*).

inside the conch shell
curve
of a wave

*holds
more light
the snail's empty shell*

knitting
late into the night
star upon stars upon stars

*front door
ladybug
you go first*

cools my hand
as I warm it
stone

*same glasses
i've worn for years
the winter stars*

touch
of the blue iris
today's light

