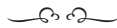


The Walk Home by Susan Lee Kerr (2020 Alba Publishing, Uxbridge, United Kingdom) 60 pages, 6" by 8 ½" perfectbound, ISBN 978-1-912773-34-3 \$15.00

The Walk Home is a collection of haiku, senryu and tanka spanning thirty years of creative writing by the author. The first chapter is titled *Where do haiku come from?* In this chapter Kerr explains the mind state needed to write haiku. Summing it up best when she says, "a free-floating defocused attention, a mode of not seeking but allowing. This type of attention has allowed Kerr to capture such outstanding moments as in the following haiku: *winter sunset/ even the gasworks scaffold/ gilded rosy pink* and *in the cemetery/ green air of cut grass/ I breath deep* and *in the train's dark glass/ I reflect on the woman/ who seems to be me.*



reviewed by Tom Clausen

in the curves, by Alan S. Bridges (2020, Red Moon Press, Winchester, VA), 4 1/4" x 6 1/2", Four-color card covers, perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-947271-56-2. from redmoonpress.com \$15.00

On a very fortuitous cross country train trip in 2008 Alan H. Bridges had a chance meeting with John Stevenson who was on his way to a west coast haiku event. The conversation that ensued on that train was sufficient to spark an interest and curiosity in haiku for Alan that led him to become one of the most well known poets in the haiku community. Twice Alan received recognition from his peers as being the Poet of the Year by readers of *The Heron's Nest* in both 2016 and 2017. Alan's haiku have been published widely in journals and anthologies and now his first print collection has been published by Red Moon Press.

in the curves is a masterful first book from Alan S. Bridges containing sixty-five memorable haiku, one per page. This

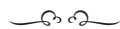
collection is entirely accessible while delivering a depth of intuitive connections for the reader. Without ever saying too much and consistently saying just enough Alan Bridges reveals his ability to 'write' that fine line. His haiku often have a trademark brilliance and compelling 'turn' that are a real pleasure to experience in repeat readings. There is room to discover and be 'there' in these poems. Here are four favorites...

master potter
almost not touching
the clay

wrinkle
the path
her tear takes

grain of wood
their conversation
at the viewing

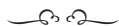
spring day
the cord zings back
into the vacuum



rusty backstop by Michael Ketchek, a bottle rockets press original #5, 2020 bottle rockets press PO Box 189 Windsor CT 06095 \$3.50 ppd USA \$4.50 ppd outside the USA, www.bottlerocketspress.com

There is something undeniably poetic and fitting when haiku are presented in a mini-chapbook format. The latest in a bottle rockets press original series (#5) is *rusty backstop* by Michael Ketchek featuring nine unforgettable haiku. This little collection easily will fit in a pocket and is easily recommended as a set of indelibly unique haiku and senryu. One of my nine favorites:

deep woods
the half hour of sun
the little pine gets



the space we open to by Peter Newton (2020, Red Moon Press, Winchester, VA) 5” x 7 Four-color card covers, perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-947271-55-5. \$15.00 from redmoonpress.com

Whether you read a haiku collection from beginning to end, or in random peeks for just a few at a time the hope is that in time and with repeat readings the collection will grow and reveal added depth and feeling with each visit. This has happily been the reality of my communion with Peter Newton’s third collection of haiku, *the space we open to*.

Dedicated to the memory of his parents, who both died in 2019, this book has a few tributes to them within the breadth of the 115 haiku and senryu contained in this collection.

fanning out
over the Atlantic
our family plot

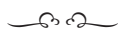
Featuring a beautiful cover photograph by Maybeth Rice Dixon, “Foggy Morning at the Boardwalk” and a Foreward by vincent tripi, there is a wonderful variety of places, subjects and feelings conveyed throughout this collection. The poet’s navigation of experiences, including some challenging and bittersweet life events, is consistent with an open heart, welcome humor, keen insight and compassionate acceptance.

latchkey kid
playing all the parts
in the sitcom

The poems appear one or two per page and there is a welcome warmth and sense of a life well lived throughout .This collection leaves no doubt that Peter Newton easily meets Socrates

maxim that one's life to be worthy should be 'examined'. It is a real pleasure to read poems that have an an intimacy and the understanding that one is a both a participant and a witness in life. In closing a personal favorite one-liner:

the river when I need to just go with it



Every Day Is A Good Day by David H. Rosen , Resource Publications, Eugene, Oregon , An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers, Copyright@ 2020 , paperback ISBN: 978-1-7252-6821-0, www.wipfandstock.com

From the Preface of *Every Day Is A Good Day*, it is noted that the title comes from Natsume Soseki who utilizes that phrase in a retelling of a Zen dialogue. This is David H. Rosen's ninth collection of haiku and it has a variety of learning that are presented in two parts; 'Learning From Travels' and 'The Doctor Learns From Illness'. It is in the latter section that we learn that the author is suffering with MS. Two of his poems touch on this: *Still the same person,/moving slow/ MS—* and *—Muse by my Side/ creation from pain/writing at night.*

In Part One, 'Learning from Travels', Rosen has one or two haiku for visits from Japan, Greece, Finland, South Africa, Greenland, New Zealand and four haiku for his home state, Oregon. A favorite from Greece in Part One : *Walk through olive groves/ a peaceful silence.../wildflowers everywhere.* Throughout this collection of 34 poems is a sense of strength and acceptance that is remarkable and inspirational given the debilitating effects of MS. It is clear that David H. Rosen recognizes the 'pains of aging' and accepts it as part of an 'ongoing awakening.' In conclusion :

I bow my head in peace
and everlasting gratitude.

