

The Wind Blows, The Ice Breaks

Poems of Loss and Renewal
by Minnesota Poets

EDITED BY TED BOWMAN AND ELIZABETH BOURQUE JOHNSON



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and
Elizabeth Bourque Johnson

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This anthology contains a wide array of poems by Minnesota poets dealing with the experience of personal loss, grief, and recovery. Among the specific themes are divorce, the death of a child, the loss of innocence, giving up a child for adoption, and domestic violence. But although the focus is on loss and grief, the poems also carry moving descriptions of healing and the return of high spirits. It will appeal to those who have suffered loss and are experiencing grief, to those who are

helping a loved one through dark times, and also to a wider audience of readers who simply appreciate good poetry.

Among the poets included are Deborah Keenan, Robert Bly, Patricia Hampl, Wang Ping, John Berryman, James Wright, and Thomas McGrath. As poet Linda Pastan observes, “This anthology explores what John Berryman, in one of its poems, calls ‘the geography of grief.’ Though the work is all by Minnesota poets, the territory it covers is wide, both in particulars and styles. It has something to offer each of us, wherever we may live.” And former Scottish poet laureate Valerie Gillies notes that the verses it contains, “so broad yet intimate, awaken our capacity to be open to life’s ebbs and flows. An enlightening handbook of hope, where poetry is both the release and the reward.”

Elizabeth Bourque Johnson, Ph.D. has encountered grief as a nurse and nurse-educator, and on a more personal level when her daughter died. She has taught both writing and literature at the University of Minnesota, and developed a course called “Writing through Grief” in the University’s Compleat Scholar Program.

Ted Bowman is an author and educator who has taught family education courses at the University of Minnesota since 1981 and served on the board of the National Association for Poetry Therapy from 1999 to 2008. Ted is the author of more than eighty articles. His book, *Crossroads: Stories at the Intersections*, was released in 2008.



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