



Nodin Press

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# Shelter

*Margaret Hasse \* poetry*  
*Sharon DeMark \* artwork*

The word *shelter* conjures images of safety, warmth, and comfort in life—a short-term respite from a sudden shower or a welcome bivouac for a cross-country hiker. But in a time of pandemic, when even commonplace gatherings become fraught with risk, we may find new shades of meaning in the term. Here poet Margaret Hasse and artist Sharon DeMark offer words and images depicting a variety of shelters including physical structures (a hut, a bus stop canopy, a turtle shell), natural sanctuaries such as forest path or a blanket of snow, everyday experiences (hugging, sitting on the front porch, playing hide and seek), and makeshift private retreats such as reading a book or going for a drive.

Sharon DeMark's artwork has the freshness and charm that only watercolors can provide, and the accompanying texts, using a variety of forms, explore a given theme with the unhurried confidence and often whimsical freedom of association we have come to expect from a seasoned poet like Margaret Hasse. Together, these two artists have wedded the allure of the familiar to the delight of the unexpected, reminding us, in these times of social constraint, that some of our richest experiences can be found very close to home.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Margaret Hasse** has authored five collections of poems, most recently *Between Us*, winner of the Midwest Poetry Prize. She co-edited *Rocked by the Waters: Poems of Motherhood* (2020). She has received fellowships or grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Minnesota State Arts Board, and The Loft-McKnight. She has helped diverse people write and read poetry in prisons, community centers, nonprofit organizations, and schools.

**Sharon DeMark** celebrated 2019 by committing to painting a daily watercolor and presented two exhibits that year. Her artwork has been published in two editions of the *Saint Paul Almanac* and one of her paintings was selected for the *Almanac's* "Poetry in the Park in the Dark" partnership with Frogtown Farm. She has worked for theaters and performing arts centers helping to connect youth, educators, and artists. Sharon currently works in philanthropy.

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