



Nodin Press

5114 Cedar Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN, 55416

Contact Norton Stillman (952) 546-6300 / Fax (952) 546-6303

nstill4402@aol.com

Ambiguous Parables

poems

Ted Bowman

Ambiguous Parables explores those regions of experience we pass through, sometimes holding our breath or nervously whistling a merry tune, but more often caught up in inexplicable emotions we'd rather come to grips with than avoid. The loss of a loved one is a prime example, and one sequence of poems contains the poet's responses to his mother's death. At the other end of the spectrum are whimsical poems such as "The Man in the Hat," in which Bowman first recognizes and then embraces the fact that the dog barking at him repeatedly as he walks by recognizes him because of his hat. There are poems about care-giving, and one about a grandfather helping a grandson sort acorns.

Such experiences aren't novel, but Bowman has a knack for pausing at just the right moment to take a second look around. Some of the poems are delightful. Others elicit awe. Again and again, in deceptively simple phrases, he summons that frisson we feel when confronted with life's pain, while simultaneously being reminded of the gift we have been given. As poet Deborah Cooper describes the collection: "These are poems of wondering, brushing up against the edge of mystery, poems that reach toward acceptance of all we cannot grasp... And, even as they grapple with grief and disillusionment, these are poems of hope. The threads of tenderness and gratitude run through these pages, *"holding the chaos gently."*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Ted Bowman's family roots are in North Carolina, but he has lived in Minnesota since 1973. He has worked as a family and grief educator in Minnesota and many other states, and also in England, Scotland and Ireland beginning in 1996. His two booklets, *Loss of Dreams: A Special Kind of Grief* (1994), and *Finding Hope When Dreams Have Shattered* (2001), are widely used for grief and loss. *Crossroads: Stories at the Intersections*, a book of poems and essays was published in 2008. He co-edited (with Elizabeth Bourque Johnson) a volume of poetry by Minnesota poets addressing themes of loss and renewal, *The Wind Blows, The Ice Breaks*, which was released in 2010. Ted was also co-editor of *It Starts with Hope* (with Betsy Brown) a volume of images and words for the 30th anniversary of The Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) in 2016.

ISBN: 978-1-947237-36-0 / 84 pages / \$17.00

◆ NODIN PRESS : MINNEAPOLIS ◆