



Nodin Press

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# Summoned

*poems*

Margaret Hasse

In her new collection of poetry, Hasse explores the sorrows and delights of daily life through narratives and ruminations enlivened by her lightning-quick imagination and her care in choosing images to achieve the desired effect. Her attention ranges widely, from the counter-culture vibe of the distant past (as in “Summer of Love, 1967” and “Marijuana”) to the humor and acceptance of aging that enliven the present, as in “Medicare Birthday” and “After a Fall.” Readers also encounter moments of reverie, as when, in “Summoning My Dead Mother,” Hasse’s beloved mother is suddenly a guest at the kitchen table eating toast with honey. The poem ends as mysteriously as it began: “she’s insubstantial as wind / that stirs a willow tree / washing its long hair in lake water / and blooming for the bees.”

The natural world, from butterflies to moose, makes repeated appearances; more challenging is the sequence of poems scattered here and there throughout the volume that Hasse labels “Another Day of Being White.” Being the adoptive mother of two African American children gives her an unusually deep and personal perspective on the crosscurrents of inequity and strife that continue to weaken our social fabric.

*Summoned* is Hasse’s sixth full-length volume. As poet Connie Wanek wrote: “Where else will we find—not necessarily answers, but the right questions? Are people good? Is there a God? How far does empathy extend? In Hasse’s work, humor and grief often share the same neighborhood, street, house, room, soul.”

Margaret Hasse grew up in South Dakota, attended Stanford University, and moved to the Twin Cities after college, where she has been active in the literary community since 1973, teaching in an arts and corrections program in prisons, with COMPAS’ poets-in-the-schools project, at the Loft, and in other settings. Her work has appeared in publications including *Calyx*, *Poetry Northeast*, *Saint Paul Almanac*, *The Sun*, *Water-Stone Review*, and *Poetry Northeast*. Hasse also edited the poetry anthology *Rocked by the Waters: Poems of Motherhood*, with Athena Kildegaard. In the midst of the COVID pandemic, she collaborated with artist Sharon DeMark to create *Shelter*, a book of paintings and poems about places of refuge. Finishing Line Press will publish her chapbook, “The Call of Glacier Park” in 2021.

For more information, contact Nodin Press at 612-333-6300 or visit [MargaretHasse.com](http://MargaretHasse.com)

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