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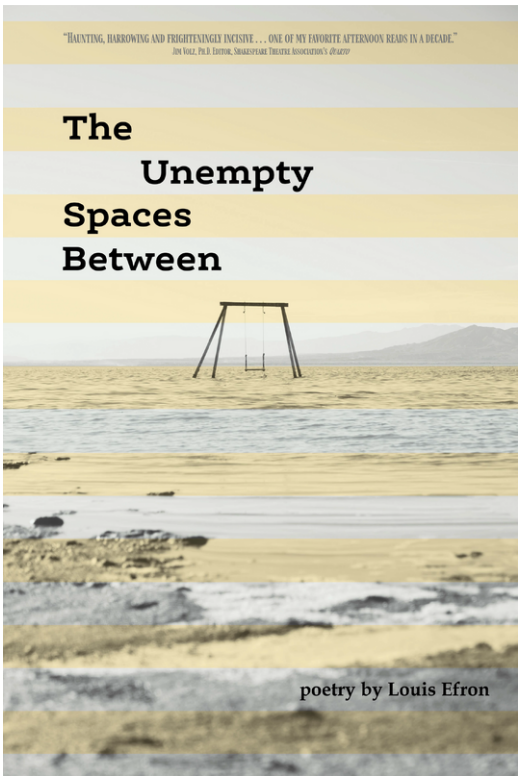
Cathexis Northwest Press



ABOUT LOUIS EFRON

Louis Efron is a poet and writer who has been featured in Forbes, Huffington Post, Chicago Tribune, POETiCA REViEW, The Orchards Poetry Journal, Academy of the Heart and Mind, Literary Yard, New Reader Magazine and over 100 other national and global publications. He is also the author of five books, including *The Unempty Spaces Between*, *How to Find a Job, Career and Life You Love*; *Purpose Meets Execution*; *Beyond the Ink*; as well as the children's book *What Kind of Bee Can I Be?*

ABOUT THE UNEMPTY SPACE BETWEEN

The Unempty Spaces Between is Louis Efron's debut poetry collection including a selection of his previously published poems and many new ones.

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New Reader Magazine | Literary Yard | The Orchards Poetry Journal | POETiCA Review

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TESTIMONIALS

"A beautiful creation of song and scar, of emotional complexity and simple witness, Louis Efron's debut collection The Unempty Spaces Between mingles the natural and human worlds in a series of accessible, personal, universal poems. From lush to bare, the landscapes he presents us with are so intertwined with and impacted by our actions that we realize the two have always been one. Brimming with meditations deep as winter snow and boundless compassion and curiosity, these vibrant poems remain grounded in a universal familiarity that opens us up to something greater."

John Sibley Williams
author of As One Fire Consumes Another

"Haunting, harrowing and frighteningly incisive . . . a welcome assault on the senses"

Jim Volz, PH.D
Editor, Shakespeare Theatre Association's Quarto

" . . . a reverence for nature and personal connection that reminds us of Mary Oliver's gorgeous nature poems."

Karol Nielsen
author of Small Life

"This work of poetry is worthy of a good read and the time of those who enjoy serious writing."

Emmett Wheatfall
author of Our Scarlet Blue Wounds

"The Unempty Spaces Between explores the gaps that separate us from nature, from spirit, and from each other."

Eric D. Lehman author of Shadows of Paris

". . . the product of a fellow seeker, who lives on purpose and knows that each word counts, just like each deep breath."

Venus Jones
author of Lyrics for Langston and She Rose

"From the first lovely poem to the last, the collection employs rich and vivid imagery, to be savored and reimagined with each reading."

Connie Soper
author of A Story Interrupted

BOOK EXCERPTS

Beautiful Trees

Petrified roots cemented deep
In the rigid jaws of Earth

Arms struggling against another storm
Fruit and leaves dead yet unfallen

Thrust to crack
Crack to break

Limb to limb, serpentine rain
Fills the spaces between

Two imposing figures nestled in a wood
Crowded with figures and their long shadows

One, shades of aged grey and rippled bronze

The other, pinkish amber bleeding into raspberry veins

Both broad bodies of grit and thirst
Stamping tainted legacies into the yielding earth

Vying forever for a bit more sunlight, reaching
Down through their cracks for where shared roots

Lovingly break open the earth

End Game

Earthy, resilient, harshly frail
Fingertips sliding, glass shards on braille

Dirty hands mar clean frosty cloth
Moving fast, then a deadening sloth

Frozen grins thawing to disturbing frowns
Inspiration fades, struggles, and drowns

Purpose, labor, an enduring cause
Crushed to death in powerful jaws

Love, a sweetly sung lullaby
Muted by painful excuses to cry

God, existence, meaningful living
A darker force, anxiety, misgiving

Expression in art, music embraced, delight
A deafening death march, an unwilling plight

Lost

Standing in this wide-open space
No paths to wander in sight
An empty expression on my face
No difference between day and night

No moon, stars, or sun
Nor trees or mountain ranges
No beds for water to run
A place adverse to changes

I look around, shades of dull brown
Asking how did I get here?
A nondescript, nowhere town
A rusty welcome sign says “Fear”

Do not move from where I stand
Beads of sweat, a reaching hand
Life now but a grain of sand
Seemed so important when it began

A New Home

Unbreathable air, spoiled soil, cancerous streams
A death march of lambs to yet another slaughter

Carelessness, disease, hate, and violence
Bodies in the streets, crimson rose stained pavement

Turning away from indiscretions, mistakes
A merry-go-round of toxic horses, civil unrest

The simplest empathy like misplaced keys
A home with locked doors, window slivers void of light

A white robed preacher, a sold-out sermon with a pulpit queue
Flailing and accusatory hands, dark eyes piercing pews of repentant souls

A failed Earth, a time to discard
Another world, our new home

Your golden lottery ticket to escape the raped and pillaged
A stem pushing through the dirt to prove its worth