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64 Pages  
Full color illustrations throughout  
Ages 5 to 10, Grades K And Up  
Juvenile Nonfiction / Religious  
JNF049240

9.5 in H | 8.5 in W | 1 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## All Creation Waits — Children's Edition

The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings for Children

Gayle Boss, Sharon Spitz

### Summary

"Beautiful, beckoning, and brimming with hope and promise, wonder and love!" —**Sy Montgomery**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *How to Be a Good Creature*

**From bestselling author Gayle Boss, a stunningly illustrated picture book edition of her beloved Advent book, *All Creation Waits*. Now young readers too will be caught up in the wonder of 24 woodland animals adapting to the season of dark and cold.**

Each day of Advent a different animal shows children its own amazing way to meet the dark and cold. Wood Frog freezes into a frog-shaped cube of ice! For six months Painted Turtle doesn't breathe! Woodchuck can't be wakened, even if shaken! With each creature, children hear the refrain: *The dark is not an end. It's a door. It's the way a new beginning comes.*

Here is the ancient truth of Advent enacted in the lives of 24 common woodland animals and culminating in the birth of the Human One who perfectly lived that truth.

Children open the book's double-page spreads as they would the doors on an Advent calendar—one, and only one, each day. "Animal wonderment" reflection questions at the back of the book help children stay with just one animal, one page spread, each day. In an often chaotic "holiday season," children learn to slow down and wait with all creation.

Written in lilting poetic lines, children ages 5 to 10 will delight in the sounds of the words as well as the vivid descriptions of animals' winter lives. They'll learn the elegant intricacies of creatures as small as honeybees, as large as black bears.

Original watercolor paintings by award-winning artist Sharon Spitz convey the radiance of each creature.

With this beautiful picture book, adults and families who have loved the original edition of *All Creation Waits* can now welcome younger children into the practice of reflective waiting-with-creation through Advent. Perfect for grounding young ones in the wonder of wild things.

An ECPA 2023 Christmas Bestseller!

**Learn more about *All Creation Waits—Children's Edition* and find free resources at [AllCreationWaits.com](https://AllCreationWaits.com)**

### Contributor Bio

**Gayle Boss** writes from West Michigan, where she was born and raised. Her lifelong love of animals and her immersion in spiritual texts and practices have melded in poems and essays that explore how relationships with animals specifically, and an attentive presence in the natural world generally, restore us to our deepest selves. Also the author of *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*, Gayle lives with her husband and Welsh corgi rescue.

**Sharon Spitz** is an award-winning illustrator and graphic designer currently based between Berlin and Haifa.

### Quotes

"In this unique blend of Advent musings on the nature of waiting, fascinating facts about animals and birds, and magnificent artwork depicting creatures in their winter habitats, author Gayle Boss and illustrator Sharon Spitz join forces to develop one theme pointing ahead to the birth of Jesus: 'The dark is not an end. It's a door. It's the

way a new beginning comes." —**The Banner**

"Saying I loved *All Creation Waits* is an understatement. It moved me and inspired me. My family will be using it to welcome in Christmas, not just once, but for years to come. As a parent, I love the space the book leaves for my own kids' responses and the prompts that are truly at a child's level. It's a delight and my new go-to recommendation for families." —**Meredith Miller**, pastor and author of *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kids Don't Have to Heal From*

"This book is at once gorgeous and glorious, quiet as falling snow, and still as a hibernating animal. It captures the magic and promise of Advent in words and pictures—reminding us, gently but powerfully, of God's love for all His creatures—including us." —**Sy Montgomery**, National Book Award Finalist and *New York Times* bestselling author of *How to Be a Good Creature*

"A gorgeous exploration in words and pictures of animals in winter, life in darkness, beauty in nature, the wonder of the world..." —**Deborah Heiligman**, author of *Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith*, a National Book Award Finalist

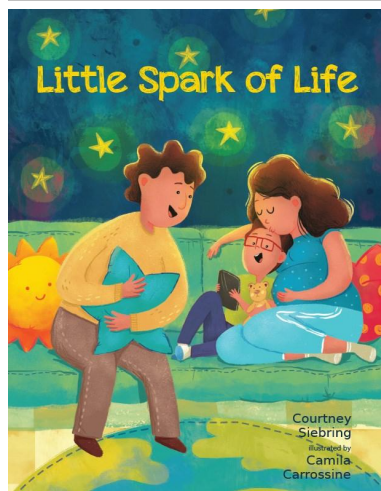
"*All Creation Waits* is an Advent book as exquisite as it is unusual. In a season which often centers on human stories and celebrates the triumph of light, this enthralling book directs our gaze elsewhere: to our animal kin and what they can teach us about stillness, waiting, and the generative power of darkness. Poetic, wise, stunningly illustrated, and rich in mystery, *All Creation Waits* is an ideal Advent companion for curious children (and grownups too). I can hardly wait to share it with my own family." —**Laura Alary**, author of *Look! A Child's Guide to Advent and Christmas* and many other books

"*All Creation Waits* is a kind of bestiary set to an Advent tune. Each day, the life of some creature unfurls before our eyes, with an accompanying prose poem that describes the animal's hibernal activity. Lushly illustrated, each page opens to dream-like portraits of animals in their habitats." —**The Living Church**

## Illustrations

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## Little Spark of Life

**A Celebration of Born and Preborn Human Life**

Courtney Siebring, Camila Carrossine

### Summary

"Little Spark of Life has quickly become one of my children's favorite books to pick up and read at bedtime. I personally love how it is a teaching tool but also shows them the value and dignity of God's Creation in the womb." —**Abby Johnson**, bestselling author of *Unplanned*; founder of And Then There Were None

**A new baby is coming! It's time to celebrate! With exciting rhymes and vibrant illustrations *Little Spark of Life* will help families get ready and learn more about the miracle of life.**

All children are a gift from the Lord — fearfully and wonderfully made! In a safe and cozy family setting, author Courtney Siebring tells the whole story of how every "little spark" grows into a one-of-a-kind, wonderful creation of human life. She explains how every detail — boy or girl, blue eyes or brown, curly or straight hair — is set in place from the very beginning, and how week by week the baby inside Mom grows and changes until Baby is finally ready to be born! *Little Spark of Life*:

- Is the perfect book for big brothers and sisters ages 4-8 getting ready for a new baby to come
- Makes a wonderful gift for baby showers
- Provides parents, grandparents, and caregivers a wonderful narrative to help explain the miracle of life
- Supports the value of life messaging and the worth of every child
- Gives a biblical perspective and Christian worldview regarding when life begins and the wonder of human development
- A valuable resource for homeschooling families, librarians, children's ministers, Sunday school teachers, and Christian school educators

It's never too early to impart little ones with respect and love for the Creator, and every single life in his care! *Little Spark of Life* demonstrates the great love that families can share in together as they embark on the journey to welcome a new baby, and will provide a wonderful platform for conversation about just how much every child is needed, loved, and uniquely valued.

**Learn more and find free resources at [littlesparkoflifebook.com](http://littlesparkoflifebook.com)**

### Contributor Bio

**Courtney Siebring** is a creative artist currently living in Colorado Springs, CO, with her husband and daughter. Her devotion to Christ, background in theatre making, current work as a voiceover artist, and long time practice of writing poetry informs the way she sees and interacts with the world. Her children's book, *Little Spark of Life*, is fueled by her passion for the unborn and their mamas as well as her experience as a foster and adoptive parent.

**Camila Carrossine** is Brazilian and lives in São Paulo. She has been drawing since she was a little girl and grew up with pencils and paper. Camila then went onto graduate in Fine Arts and also studied Art Direction. Camila considers herself a visual storyteller and loves to mix traditional and digital techniques in her illustrations. She divides her time between children's book projects and animated films. And she loves books, traveling, and walking barefoot.

### Quotes

"Little Spark of Life has quickly become one of my children's favorite books to pick up and read at bedtime. I personally love how it is a teaching tool but also shows them the value and dignity of God's Creation in the womb." —**Abby Johnson**, bestselling author of *Unplanned*; founder of And Then There Were None

"Paraclete's *Little Spark of Life: A Celebration of Born and Pre-born Human Life* by Courtney Siebring (out now) is a rhyming baby-on-the-way book promising 'a biblical perspective and Christian worldview regarding when life begins,' according to the publisher." —**Publishers Weekly**

"As the leaves take on bold colors before falling from the trees, we're reminded of life's passing beauty, but also await the hope of new life that each Spring brings. *Little Spark of Life* is a new pro-life children's book that captures the wonder of that profound miracle. This heartwarming story provides vibrant illustrations of a father and mother walking their child through the pregnancy of their preborn sibling. Balancing whimsy with scientific facts, this book thoroughly details the many milestones achieved during the weeks of pregnancy—from cells dividing, to perceiving light and sound. This is a must-have-read for parents and children, whether welcoming a new sibling or just wanting to explore the beauty of life in the womb!" —**Catholic Vote**

"Ideal for the 'biggs,' the brothers and sisters who wait and wonder!" —**National Catholic Register**

"This book provides parents with a beautiful way of reminding their children that they are perfectly and divinely made and that their lives had purpose long before their first cry! May our children know that everyone's life is a miracle from the very first spark!" —**Kristan Hawkins**, President, Students for Life

"*Little Spark of Life* beautifully communicates the value of every life, no matter how small. This is a great resource for parents who want to help their children understand the valuable truth that every person is an image bearer of God and has dignity, value and worth." —**Lauren Green McAfee**, Founder, Stand for Life & Author of *Beyond Our Control*

"As an adopted child and a former foster and adoptive mother, Courtney's beautiful book brought me to the most joyful tears! *Little Spark of Life* is an inspired reminder for children—and the child in each of us—that God created us for a distinct purpose, and that we are fearfully and wonderfully made." —**Diane Ferraro**, CEO, Save the Storks

"With a perfect blend of science and heart, *Little Sparks of Life* is my go-to book to celebrate the uniqueness and distinctiveness of each child and every life. This book teaches children that their life is intentionally created with value, creativity and infinite worth. I want to buy this book for every expecting big brother and big sister I know." —**Esther Fleece**, bestselling author of *No More Faking Fine* and *Your New Name*

"*Little Spark of Life* will help you explain the ongoing transformation of your baby in the womb. Kids will learn how every child bears the image of God from the moment of conception. They'll see the growth milestones along the way – heartbeat, brain development, facial features and more. What a great resource to help siblings prepare for a new brother or sister!" —**Jim Daly**, President, Focus on the Family

"*Little Spark of Life* is the delightful story of a mother telling her son about his unborn sister's development. Colorful, imaginative illustrations bring the mother's descriptions of growth in the womb to life. This charming book is a perfect way to introduce the pro-life message to a young child—I look forward to sharing it with my own children!" —**Emily Yocum**, Executive Direction, Orthodox Christians for Life



"With endearing illustrations and lilting rhyme, *Little Spark of Life* by Courtney Siebring, is a beautiful introduction to the wonder and miracle of conception through birth through the lens of a mother conversing with her pre-school aged child as they expectantly await the birth of a new baby. It's a lovely introduction and reminder of the sanctity of life." —**Laura Sassi**, author of multiple books for young children including the *My Tender Heart* series, *Goodnight Ark* and more

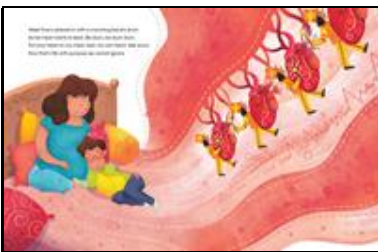
"A sweet rhyming read-aloud to help young children appreciate the hidden development of the child in the womb, emphasizing that it was all designed by God." —**Barb Szyszkiewicz**, Editor, CatholicMom.com

"This book is a reminder to us all--young and old--that we are uniquely made in the image of God. Courtney has written a beautiful story that will inspire every little reader to know their identity in Christ and how much God loves them! Every child should have this book on their shelf!" —**Amy Ford**, President, Embrace Grace, and author of *Help Her Be Brave*

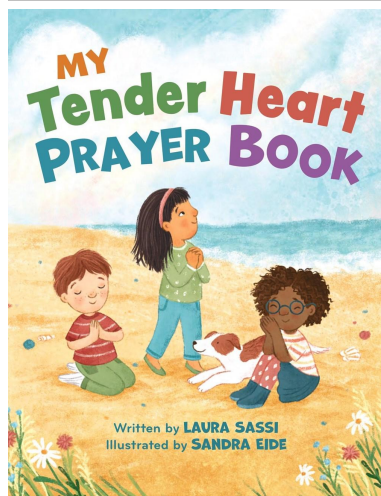
"A wonderful little book full of beautiful illustrations which will go a long way to foster a culture of life among our children." —**Eilís Mulroy**, Pro Life Campaign (Ireland)

"What a joyful, kid-friendly introduction to how babies grow and develop before they're born! *Little Spark of Life* gives lots for families to explore and celebrate—great for 'sparkling' deeper conversations with curious kids." —**Valerie Ellis**, children's author and founder of Our Everyday Parables

## Illustrations







## My Tender Heart Prayer Book (Part of the "My Tender Heart" Series)

Rhyming Prayers for Little Ones

Laura Sassi, Sandra Eide

### Summary

**With rhyming text and playful illustrations, *My Tender Heart Prayer Book* offers a vibrant collection of prayers for every moment of the day from morning to night. Inspiring words and "Heart Moments" combine to foster a little one's relationship with God.**

Simple yet uplifting prayers for toddlers going through their daily routine are accentuated with a "Heart Moment" for parents to share and ponder. Scripture verses are noted throughout that point to God's Word and relevance to everyday experiences.

### ***My Tender Heart Prayer Book:***

- Contains 23 prayers for baby or toddler that encourage gratitude, thinking of others, asking for help, joy, compassion, trust in God, and teach important spiritual cornerstones
- Is a sturdy board book that can withstand repeated readings and usage at home, church, or classroom
- Is perfect as bedtime reading for your toddlers and little ones
- Offers details in the artwork for little ones to enjoy and find for "point and learn" discovery
- Serve as a base for introductory Bible discussion with handy Scripture references
- Is the perfect size for little hands
- Makes a great gift for many occasions including baby shower, christening, baptism, baby dedication, new grandchild, curious toddlers, and boys and girls ages 0 to 4 years old

At the breakfast table, in the car, at school, or at bedtime – every time is the perfect time to help kids connect with God! Parents, caregivers, teachers, godparents, aunts and uncles will want to make *My Tender Heart Prayer Book* part of their beloved little one's daily routine.

**Learn more about *My Tender Heart Prayer Book* and find free resources at [MyTenderHeartBooks.com](https://www.MyTenderHeartBooks.com).**

### Contributor Bio

**Laura Sassi** has a passion for telling stories in prose and rhyme. She is the author of multiple books for young children including *My Tender Heart Bible* and *Happy Birthday, Christmas Child!* Laura had a successful teaching career before becoming a children's author. She's been a homeschool mom, children's ministry director, historic museum interpreter, and more. She writes daily from her home in New Jersey and finds special joy in pointing kids to God and to good through story and sharing her love of reading and writing at school visits, church gatherings and other events.

**Sandra Eide** is a children's book illustrator from the Pacific Northwest. Sandra works with a mixture of real watercolors, textures, and digital mediums to create her

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Board Book

26 Pages  
Fully Color Illustrations  
Ages 0 to 5, Grades P to K  
Juvenile Nonfiction / Religious  
JNF049120  
Series: My Tender Heart  
7.3 in H | 5.8 in W | 0.6 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**



illustrations. Her art is influenced by nature, culture, and the importance of showing all kinds of people in her work.

## Quotes

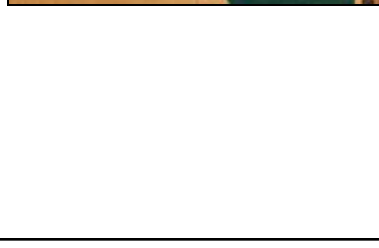
"Such a sweet prayer book demonstrating how kids may pray in all circumstances throughout the day. Kids will love the extra activities and encouragement to apply these prayers to their own lives." —**Jill Roman Lord**, award-winning children's book author

"*My Tender Heart Prayer Book* is perfect for parents and grandparents to guide their littlest ones in short, rhythmic prayers and heart moment reflections for every part of their child's day from morning to meals, school and play, errands and helping others, to bath and bedtime. Paired Bible verses and adorable illustrations will help young children thank and praise God." —**Tina Cho**, author of the award winning *The Ocean Calls* and *My Breakfast with Jesus*

"From the moment they open their eyes, til they close at bedtime, *My Tender Heart Prayer Book* brings little ones into the presence of God. Not only does Laura give us wonderful words to pray with our children, but with simple heart moments she helps us disciple them and helps us talk to them about God in the everyday." —**Rev. Ian Rankine**, Pastor, Pluckemin Presbyterian Church, Pluckemin NJ

"This book inspired my toddler to give more hugs after reading it! And that's because it's just what *My Tender Heart Prayer Book* feels like—a big hug from God to your child. Both you and your child will treasure it." —**Noelle Kirchner**, pastor, author, parenting TV host, and mother of three

## Illustrations





**THANK YOU FOR THE BIBLE  
PRAYER**  
7 THIRTY SIX

Thank you for the Bible, Lord,  
It is a gift from Thee,  
Which will comfort, cheer, and bless,  
And bring us nearer Thee.

Help us read and understand,  
And heed the Word of God,  
Remember us when Thou art near,  
And keep us from Thy wrath.

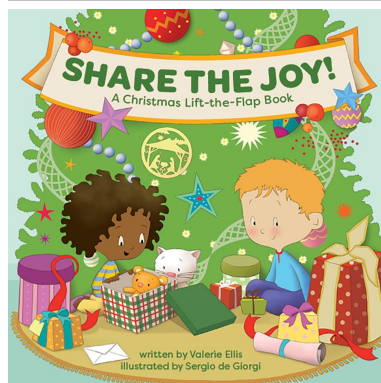
**BIBLE MEMORIZE:** Thank you for the Bible, Lord,  
It is a gift from Thee,  
Which will comfort, cheer, and bless,  
And bring us nearer Thee.

**BEDTIME PRAYER**

PSALM 138:8

Thanks be thy greatness of mercy,  
and how high are thy works of power,  
O Lord our God, who art above  
all that we can think or see,  
Thy glory no man hath ever seen,  
Thy work no man hath ever done,  
Thy name is great above all things,  
and who can praise thee as thou art?





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Juvenile Fiction / Holidays &  
Celebrations  
JUV017010

8 in H | 8 in W | 0.7 lb Wt  
Status: **ACTIVE**

## Share the Joy! A Christmas Lift-the-Flap Book

Keep Jesus at the Center this Advent & Holiday Season with This Rhyming Storybook about the Nativity for Children Ages 0-4

Valerie Ellis, Sergio de Giorgi

### Summary

**It's Christmas, and there is so much to be excited about! This lift-the-flap book helps kids explore and share all the fun, love, and true joy of this special time of year.**

This first book from author, speaker, and mom Valerie Ellis celebrates all the wonderful things that bring us joy at Christmastime! Charming rhymes and vibrant illustrations will entice little readers to lift the flap to learn even more about how they can help make Christmas special for others, and share the gift of Jesus's birth with everyone.

Intended for children ages 0-4 and their caregivers, *Share the Joy!* is:

- an 8X8 inch, sturdy and colorful board book with engaging, durable flaps — perfect for excited, busy little hands
- a wonderful introduction to the joy of giving and receiving at Christmas
- a fun way to help parents teach ideas like generosity, kindness, and empathy to sensitive young hearts
- filled with rhythmic, rhyming language little ears will love
- a great gift for Advent or Christmas, birthdays, baby showers, children's ministry, preschool programs, church nativity plays, and more
- an ideal children's library, nursery, and preschool resource

### Contributor Bio

**Valerie Ellis** is a children's book author, speaker, and founder of the multi-author online resource *Our Everyday Parables*, which offers book reviews and parenting ideas for families pursuing faith and compassion. A certified teacher, Valerie is passionate about helping kids and parents connect with God and each other in the everyday moments. Her upcoming books are designed to serve families at the intersection of faith and fun. Valerie is also a nonprofit consultant, trainer, and grant proposal writer in the Houston area, where she lives with her husband, Josh, and their two boys. For more information, visit [ValerieEllis.com](http://ValerieEllis.com) and connect with Valerie at @iamvalerieellis.

**Sergio De Giorgi** was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he currently lives with his wife Viviana and two daughters, April and Emma. As a young child, he dressed up in his superhero costume to explore his neighborhood, jumped over rooftops, and went home to write and draw about his superhero adventures. He has never stopped drawing. When his first daughter was born in 2000, he started writing and illustrating for children. In his free time, Sergio enjoys designing and manufacturing wooden and paper toys.

### Quotes

"*Share the Joy!* is the perfect way to invite children to celebrate Advent by giving one another our presence, instead of getting lost in the consumer fever of presents that do not last." —**Chris Seay**, Pastor of Ecclesia Houston and author of *Advent Conspiracy*

"With its fun, lift-the-flap design and beautifully vibrant and diverse illustrations, *Share the Joy!* encourages little ones to seek and celebrate the true joys of Christmas: the love of family and friends, giving and thanksgiving, and—most of all—the celebration of the Savior who 'changed the world with His great love!' A must for Christmas!" —**Tama Fortner**, ECPA award-winning and bestselling author of more than fifty books

"Kids will delight in their favorite Christmas activities, and parents will love the 'share and serve' twist revealed under each flap. *Share the Joy!* is a perfect way for little hearts to learn that Christmas is about more than treats and gifts." —**Christie**

**Thomas**, Christian parenting coach & award-winning children's book author

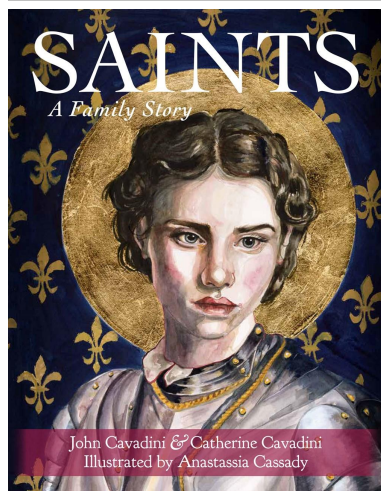
"What a delightful Christmas offering from debut author Valerie Ellis! With interactive lift-the-flaps and a focus on kindness and generosity, *Share the Joy!* truly is a joy to share with little ones." —**Glenys Nellist**, author of over thirty children's titles including *Good News! It's Christmas!* and *Snuggle Time Christmas Stories*

"With sweet, playful language and vivid illustrations, *Share the Joy!* encourages a heart for generosity in even the youngest children. By modeling sharing during regular Christmas traditions, children's favorite holiday is repositioned as a Christ-centered season of missional love. A perfect book for every family's Christmas collection!"  
—**Lindsey Schultz**, Children's Ministry Director, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, East Side, New York City

## Illustrations







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Status: **ACTIVE**

## Saints: A Family Story

John Cavadini, Catherine Cavadini, Anastassia Cassady

### Summary

**A beautifully illustrated collection of the stories of the Saints the whole family will love — by father and daughter writing team, John and Catherine Cavadini, with stunning portraits by Anastassia Cassady.**

This collection, *Saints: A Family Story*, is composed of stories the authors have written for their own children and grandchildren and friends. They are adapted from Scripture, from original sources within the Tradition, and from the writings of the saints themselves or their family and friends. The saints are presented as a “Family,” living in many different times and places. Just think: many of these saints learned to love and to live the faith through the witness of their parents and grandparents or their brothers and sisters. Other saints form spiritual families, with connections between them found across the centuries.

The stories begin with Pope St. John Paul II because he called the Church today to sanctity by giving us the gift of more and more saints. The stories then move chronologically, from stories of saints in the Gospels, to martyrs, confessors and ascetics of the early Church, to saints of the medieval period, and to more modern saints, like Ven. Augustus Tolton, Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati and St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Through the stories of these saints, we receive new brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers in the faith. Each person’s life tells the “story” of God’s love in a unique and unrepeatable way. The illustrations bring shape and color to these stories, capturing the true diversity among the magnificent and beautiful “family of saints.”

### Contributor Bio

**John Cavadini** is Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame, where he also serves as McGrath-Cavadini Director of the McGrath Institute for Church Life. John's work as a theologian arises from his love for the Church Fathers, especially St. Augustine. Knighted by Pope Benedict XVI for his service to the Church, John and his wife, Nancy, live in South Bend, IN, where visits from any number of their 17 grandchildren are a daily diversion.

**Catherine ("Katie") Cavadini** is John's daughter and Tess's old swim coach. She teaches theology at Notre Dame, where she also directs the Master of Arts Program in Theology. In the classroom, Katie typically offers courses on scriptural interpretation, spirituality, and the stories of the saints. Katie and her husband, Anthony, live in South Bend, IN with their four children: Anna, James, John, and Zelie.

**Anastassia "Tess" Cassady** studied Art and Art History at the University of Michigan (Go blue!) and Indiana University. She resides in South Bend with her husband, Bob, and three children: Genevieve, Ivanka, and Dmitri. She has spent the last ten years teaching high school advanced art and art history at Trinity School at Greenlawn. She is also a professional freelance artist and has taken on many commissions including church murals, altarpiece paintings, paschal candles, byzantine icons, gilding a baldacchino, book covers, and private oil paintings (her favorite!). Tess swam collegiately at the University of Michigan, while Katie swam at Notre Dame. Despite all of this, they still remain friends. In her free time, if not painting, you can usually find Tess cooking Ukrainian food, making pysanky (Ukrainian Easter eggs), playing ice hockey, or cuddling with her three massive Maine Coons.

### Quotes

“This is destined to become a classic in the genre. There is simply no other book of which we are aware on the topic of Catholic Saints that is so informative and so exquisitely captivating with this realistic, superb portrait art. In a way this is not a



typical children's book, although the writing is upbeat and lovely. It is designed to be read together, to help encourage families to read about saints (from history or from the Bible.) The art is stunning, and somewhat diverse. Besides a wild, wild-eyed, long-haired John the Baptist, on the other page there is a big bug, I'm guessing, uh, a locust. Yep, there are these smaller depictions and insets. A few of the pictures are edgy and iconographic, others (like the cover) more realistic. The picture of blessed Franz Jaegerstaetter hugging his wife over his scrippled letters is heartbreakingly powerful. There is a great bibliography at the end. An excellent resource for families with older kids. Or no kids. It's amazing." —**Byron Borger**, *Hearts & Minds*

"This book is full of life. Christ promised to bring his disciples life in abundance and his saints are the shining testaments to the fulfillment of that promise. By word and image, this book reveres the beauty of Christ's life in his saints, teaching us, delighting us, and inspiring us in the way of sanctity. This book stands apart from others because of its spiritual warmth, theological sensitivity, and artistic beauty." —**Leonard J. DeLorenzo**, University of Notre Dame, Author of *Our Faithful Departed: Where They Are and Why It Matters*

"Literature on the saints, especially those written for children and families, tend to turn these holy men and women into cartoon characters from another era. *Saint: A Family Story* avoids this misstep, letting the saints become wonderfully beautiful and strange icons of holiness for our day. The lives of the saints are easy to read, but they never reduce the saints to models for living. You feel like you get to know these holy men and women, what they cared about, and why it matters to your life. The art throughout the volume captivates. The saints look like people, but the kind of people who have been forever transformed through an encounter with Christ. I feel, at last, there is a book on the saints that adults, adolescents, and young children alike can get excited about. Every family should own a copy of this book." —**Timothy P. O'Malley**, Director of Education, McGrath Institute for Church Life; Academic Director, Notre Dame Center for Liturgy

"With graceful simplicity, this extraordinary little book introduces the communion of saints in a voice brimming over with wonder at and gratitude for the goodness of the Catholic faith. The luminous reality of the lives of these saints—brave, kind, true, and holy—shines through every loving word and beautiful image. An instant classic!" —**Jennifer Newsome Martin**, University of Notre Dame

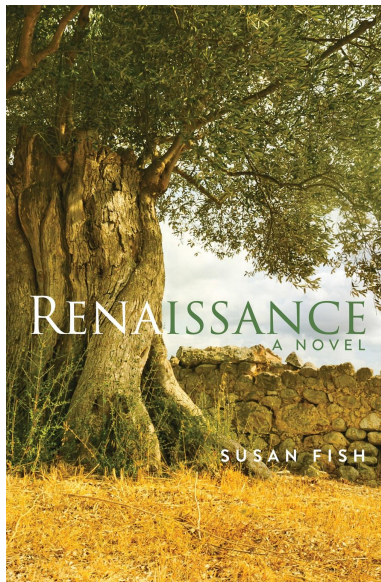
"*Saints: A Family Story* breathes new life into hagiography, making it a golden legend for our times. John and Catherine Cavadini recount the grace-filled lives of thirty-four men and women ranging from apostolic times to the present, from Chicago to Nagasaki, from martyrs to contemplatives, forming an extraordinary community of holy friendships for young and old. Each biography in *Saints* is unique, like the path to sanctity it sketches, and written in an engaging style sure to captivate the modern reader. Anastassia Cassady's illustrations, drawing on the rich traditions of Christian art for each distinctive and compelling portrait, are magnificent." —**Liz Lev**, Art Historian and Author

## Illustrations

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## Renaissance

A Novel

Susan Fish

### Summary

**Elizabeth Fane is on the cusp of 50, but instead of celebrating with her family, she is on a plane to Italy alone, leaving behind her husband, three adult sons, and the profound rift between them.**

In Italy Liz plans to prune olive trees at a convent, explore the city of Florence, and visit its ancient cathedrals. There she meets four women—five if you count the large painting of the Virgin Mary—with whom she converses regularly. While at first these conversations with the painting are ironic (and are always one-sided), eventually they turn to become another way for Liz to consider the rift between her and her family. Liz gradually reveals why she left home and sorts out what it will take for her to return. *Renaissance* is a story about a woman of a certain age — a novel about the end of motherhood as Liz steps out of longstanding domestic roles to find her own place in the world.

### Quotes

"In *Renaissance*, Susan Fish gives us a rare combination of two journeys: a vivid external tour of Florence, Italy, and a deep interior path through a woman's struggle. With exquisite detail and brave authenticity, she portrays protagonist Liz Fane's established view of herself and along the way takes us on yet another journey...into our own too-sure identities. *Grazie, Susan. Grazie.*" —**Nancy Rue**, Christy Award-winning author, speaker, and teacher

"A book to transport you—inside the walls of a convent in the hills above Florence, where ancient olive trees await rebirth after necessary pruning, where nuns chant the holy hours and, from the nunnery kitchen, churn out delectable Florentine soups and stews and pastas and breads, all of which begin to fill an insatiable hunger. Thousands of miles from home and heartbreak, a woman brought to her knees by an unspoken sorrow, slowly, slowly comes to the dawning knowing that love—and only love—is the necessary force for any chance at rebirth. *Renaissance*, indeed. Susan Fish's fluency in all things Florentine, from the twists and the turns in ancient streets to the *tabacchi* (convenience store) where bus tickets are bought, is part of the magic in this novel that will carry you far from whatever might otherwise weigh you down. But so, too, is the realism and the fine-grained brushstroke with which Fish paints her portraits of friendship and one woman's struggle to let go of her pain and open herself once again to the love that had never really gone away. You'll be grateful for the overseas journey without ever having to leave your coziest armchair. And you'll consider deeply, perhaps, the hurts in your own life that you, too, might have clung to for far, far too long." —**Barbara Mahany**, author of *The Book of Nature: The Astonishing Beauty of God's First Sacred Text*

"Fish is at her best in her creation of memorable characters, and they're everywhere in *Renaissance*."

—**Jessica Walters**, radixmagazine.com

"Susan Fish tells the story of a woman seeking her own renaissance, trying to find her way through a dark wood where all the familiar trail blazes are missing... A profound story of a mid-life renaissance."

—**Bob Trube**, bobonbooks.com

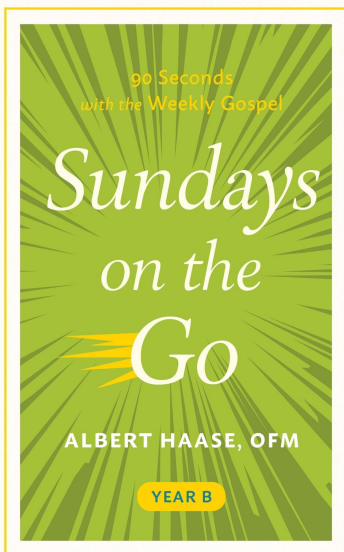
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## Sundays on the Go Year B

90 Seconds With the Weekly Gospel

Albert Haase

### Summary

**Got a minute? Thanks to beloved Franciscan priest and retreat leader Fr. Albert Haase, that's all you need to stay in touch with the Gospel every Sunday through the Church year. Inspired by his early days in a busy urban parish, *Sundays on the Go Year B* is Fr. Albert's gift to busy Catholics – just enough to keep you on track with Jesus, even when you're on the run!**

This second edition of *Sundays on the Go* features:

- A reading for every Sunday of Year B of the liturgical year
- Handy Scriptural references to each Gospel passage
- A brief, direct, and pithy homily from Fr. Albert
- A reflection question and a prayer
- Special readings for Solemnities and Feasts through the year

Fr. Albert's words will help you to prepare for Sunday Eucharist, and stay in touch with the Gospel all week long. *Sundays on the Go Year B* is the perfect gift for busy Catholics of all ages – professionals, parents, students, and anyone who's short on time – in need of spiritual wisdom, encouragement, and a strong connection with the Gospel.

### Contributor Bio

**Albert Haase, OFM**, is a popular Franciscan preacher, teacher, spiritual director, and guest on talk radio shows. A former missionary to mainland China, he is the award-winning author of thirteen books on popular spirituality, including *Catching Fire* *Becoming Flame*, and the presenter on five best-selling DVDs. He currently resides at San Miguel Friary in San Antonio, Texas.

### Quotes

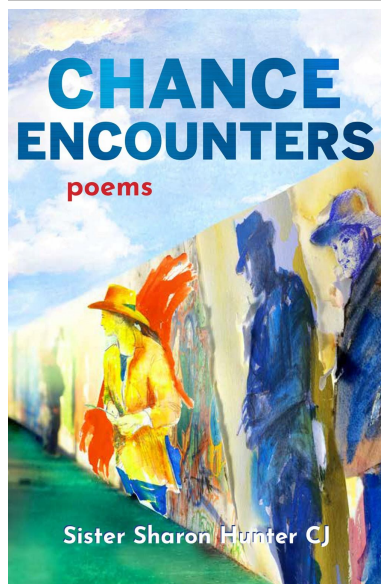
"This is a wonderful aid for those whose churches follow the liturgical year. My church does not but many of us from such backgrounds find ourselves longing for a richer rhythm through the year than just Christmas and Easter. This book is a wonderful introduction into a rhythm many of our fellow saints have followed for centuries, one that allows us to read, pray, and reflect with much of the global church." —**Bob on Books**



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## Chance Encounters

### Poems

Sister Sharon Hunter, Sister Anna-Hope Mitchell

### Summary

**A new collection from Sister Sharon Hunter, CJ celebrating the people and circumstances who help make us what we are.**

"For several months in 2020, I awoke most days at 3:00 a.m. to a mind busily at work; my own, of course. I had a choice to make, ignore it or explore it. Vivid memories, pictures really, of people I once knew climbed from the depth of my subconscious where I'd cleverly assigned them. They captured my attention, and rightfully so, for I owed them. When we reject our heritage, as I did, because it's not image worthy, we cancel as well those who enhanced our lives. Good people, brave people, wise people, sometimes shady and crooked people, all contribute to our circle of life. To fully understand me, I must include them. *Chance Encounters* is my thank you to those I carelessly tossed away in quest of shallow acceptability. They're alive once again on the pages of this book. And I'm forever grateful for their vibrant beauty, courage, ingenuity, and fascinating eccentricities. They paid the world the high compliment of being themselves." —Sister Sharon Hunter, CJ

### Contributor Bio

**Sister Sharon Hunter, CJ**, is a professed religious of more than thirty-five years at the Community of Jesus, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Born in 1947 in the farming region of Western Pennsylvania, Sister Sharon was raised a country girl. Her writing, infused with practical, sometimes stark reality, compliments her desire to offer hope in extreme circumstances, beauty in our sufferings, and assurance that light is always with us.

**Sister Anna-Hope Mitchell, CJ**, is a religious sister at the Community of Jesus, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. A graduate of the Philadelphia College of Art, she has enjoyed many book design and illustration projects over the years.

### Quotes

Praise for *Chance Encounters*

"With a facility for rhymed verse, honesty born of intense self-scrutiny and a restless, eager heart, Sister Sharon Hunter, CJ invites readers to share her journey. While the journey is rendered in colorful personal narratives replete with intimate moments of insight, it is ultimately a universal one—the need to see oneself and others clearly, to forgive and, most importantly, to understand Jesus as the center of all strivings."

—**Maryanne Hannan**, author of *Rocking Like It's All Intermezzo: 21st Century Psalm Responsorials*

"Sister Sharon Hunter writes of 'stone polishers: patient folk who buff away the cragged corners of wayward minds and careless deeds.' This is the very act of attention and kindness Hunter accomplishes in her tender work. She invites us to see how community completes us and through her deep connection to Jesus, she gives clarity to pains of the past with forgiveness." —**Shemaiah Gonzalez**, essayist and storyteller

"Plainspoken, honest, candid and clear-eyed, the poems in Sister Sharon Hunter's *Chance Encounters* grapple with wounded memories and rejoice in graced moments from a childhood among the last century's rural poor and a life spent looking for God." —**Maryann Corbett**, author of *In Code: Poems* and other collections

Praise for Sister Sharon Hunter, CJ's *To Shatter Glass: Poems*

"Hunter is a longtime professed religious in the Community of Jesus on Cape Cod, a

community that...has proved a powerhouse of artistic expression, including ventures in choral music, theater, and publishing as the Paraclete Press, of which Iron Pen is an imprint. This collection is truly a collaboration, as the verses are punctuated throughout by the vivid nonrepresentational paintings of Sister Faith Riccio. Hunter's poems in aggregate make up a loose memoir, in which the poet struggles with the implications of childhood in a home marked by alcohol addiction and other losses and sorrows, at last finding a way to "walk among the daffodils/ inhaling boundless mystery." VERDICT Despite its recounting of the author's early troubles, this volume is a pleasure to read, with its marriage of verse and painting; many readers, especially survivors of alcohol-addicted families, will respond to Hunter's direct approach."

—**Library Journal**

"In this new collection of poems, rising as they do out of past turmoil and brokenness, Sister Sharon Hunter's meditations speak in redemptive ways, inviting us into the old wounds and scars and presenting to God, and to us as readers, fresh understandings of what it takes to heal." —**Luci Shaw**, author, *The Generosity and Eye of the Beholder*, Writer in Residence, Regent College

"Sister Sharon's poetry leads her reader seamlessly through several chapters of life's most fearsome and heart-wrenching struggles to a place of redemption. The imagery that makes her poetry a visual experience keeps the reader hungry for the next scene, allowing just long enough to share her angst, while in the background a cadence pushes forward, promising the hope of redemption. The fact is, she may just be the most honest poet I have ever encountered." —**Rev. Dr. Bradford D. Lussier**, pastoral counselor, author of *How Does He Love Me? A Collection of Love Sonnets*

"In words of courage, conviction, and terrible beauty, Sister Sharon Hunter dispels the myth of escaping life in the real world for the shelter of the cloister. She confronts the lingering demons of the past—a legacy of family alcoholism, abuse, violence, and depression—holding them up to the light of her daily encounters with the mysterious, often incomprehensible, love of God. By reading these poems, we are privileged to join her on the path to hope and healing." —**Sister Helen Prejean**, author of *Dead Man Walking* and *River of Fire: My Spiritual Journey*

"Sister Sharon Hunter never forces us to swallow the 'wool pulled so far over our own eyes it's in our mouths,' yet she enables us to see the pain and hear the shattered glass that is our collective experience of loss. Her words respect this truth, but also give grace and hope to our individual hearts as we make pilgrimage together. Her courage expressed toward triumph through tears inspires us to keep going, believing in the goodness of God." —**Margaret Philbrick**, Redbud Writers Guild, Contributing editor of *Everbloom: Stories of Living Deeply Rooted and Transformed Lives*

"Unabashed is the first word that comes to mind to describe this debut poetry collection. Courageous is the second. With unflinching candor Hunter here lays bare the despair, destruction and shattering loss she experienced growing up in an alcoholic home. But this recounting is far more than a chronicle of personal loss and pain. Rather it is the beginning of a pilgrimage of hope and restoration to which she bids readers join her, poem by poem, and step by step." —**Margaret B. Ingraham**, author of *Exploring this Terrain*

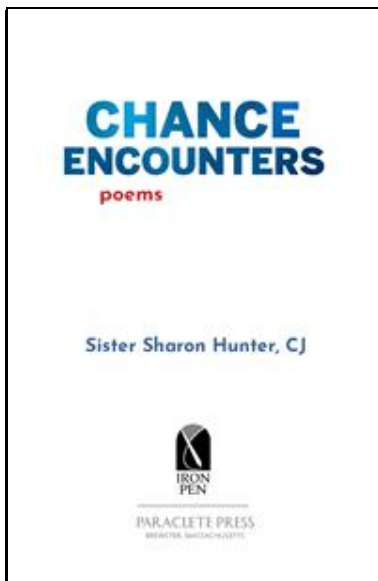
"There's not an ounce of affectation or pretentiousness in these poems. They have a 'Mary Oliver' directness. One poem, 'The Listener,' thanks the person who hears a broken heart and finds the unshed tears in our nervous laughter. These poems do exactly that, they hear your broken heart and help you name your unshed tears. Poems give clear expression to unclear feelings. These poems do that. Wonderfully." —**Ronald Rolheiser, OMI**, author of *Bruised and Wounded*, *The Fire Within*, and *Domestic Monastery*

"*To Shatter Glass* not only breaks literal doors, but also trauma-related silences. A memoir in verse, *To Shatter Glass* honors the holy mystery of its subject matter by

avoiding superfluous details. Instead, Sister Sharon offers 'life's fragments,.../ like ice floes from a half-frozen river.' One of these fragments is the miracle that 'Any day now, a bird will lift its tiny head and sing.' Sister Sharon Hunter is that bird, and her song enriches all who hear it." —**Melanie Weldon-Soiset**, poet, former pastor, and #ChurchToo spiritual abuse survivor

"Who of us reading Sister Sharon Hunter's *To Shatter Glass* can ever forget the image in the title poem of her as a little girl deliberately plunging headlong into a glass door, "Hands and knees on shattered rain / my head slipped through the broken pane / Around my neck a jagged crown / I didn't move or make a sound." The poet's shocking recollection drives us deep into the heart of her traumatic life, a life so painful as the daughter of alcoholic parents and the victim of other abuses that she gives herself names like "Invisible," "zero," "the glass half-empty." She does "a comb-over / to hide the baldness" of her soul, and "slap[s] on a smile / to cover every avenue of sadness." And though she concealed her inner life from the world, she also felt the motions of grace, so beautifully conveyed in "Perhaps." Here, she considers the mystery of God revealed perhaps in darkness, "a pinpoint of light that woos and beckons. / Interior light / expanded through suffering." The shattered glass is restored, but it is more than what it was, more like a stained glass window letting in the light." —**Suzanne Underwood Rhodes**, author of *Flying Yellow*

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# I

## The Least of These



### Chance Encounters

Life is a flink web, a welcoming space for the grafter of our hearts.  
 Who am I without you or you without me? Until you speak and  
 I reply, we remain undefined, unsure... uncertain. Memories,  
 like crumpled of bread, draw me from sleepless nights to morning  
 contemplation. The past, long buried, demands a voice. People line  
 up and clamor for admission. Please come in, my formative agents of  
 color, experience, and nature. Speak up! Please, speak your minds.  
 Too long we've sat in silence, prodding my existence.

11



### All the More

And I shall die a lonely death  
 across a road in the end of life.  
 And I shall take a final breath  
 no one's child,  
 no one's wife.

The words, reckless duty-bound,  
 across me in my raw-fused soul,  
 without a moment or a second,  
 a wooden house for my sin.

The One I love will meet me there,  
 He'll smile, and I'll smile the more.  
 The One I love will smooth my hair,  
 and lead me through an open door.

Draws to beauty, draws to home,  
 loved ones lost at last to seek  
 the flowered fields in which I roam,  
 ocean depth and mountain peak.  
 O Jesus of my heart, draw near,  
 Jesus, free me from all fear.  
 I wait here now, expectantly,  
 for the day in which You'll rescue me.

13

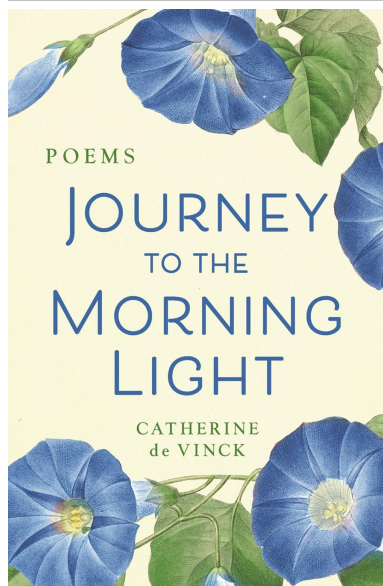


### Sentinel, Self-Appointed

The clock ticks past a safety point,  
and I'll be wrong in the night.  
I stand near parked cars,  
a watching hour essential,  
praying for his safe return.  
I ask God for one more miracle,  
just one.

My heart beats out the seconds  
in anxious waiting for fading light  
of a car rounding a curve  
in fog-shrouded creek land.  
I long to see  
the weaving beams  
of a driver aware,  
moments slowed from too much drink.

The telephone rings and mother wakes.  
We meet each other in the hall,  
alert, frightened, and reluctant  
to be the one who answers.  
My mother plays the mother  
and atags my reaching hand.



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## Journey to the Morning Light

### Poems

Catherine de Vinck

### Summary

***A posthumous collection of poems on the beauty of the seasons, creation, life and death, from beloved poet Catherine de Vinck.***

In the words of the Foreword by Mary Evelyn Tucker, the poetry of Catherine de Vinck, "calls us to ever greater awareness of who we are and where we dwell. She offers us glimpses of truth, not answers to our questions. She lights the path, sometimes with the brilliance of a single image. More often she surrounds us with the atmosphere of dusk—the twilight arising in our consciousness where mood and memory mingle."

### Contributor Bio

**Catherine de Vinck** was born and raised in Brussels, Belgium. She moved to the US with her husband, Baron Jose de Vinck, in her mid-twenties, and raised six children. Her first language was French. She has been awarded three honorary doctorates and published fourteen books of poetry. Her enthusiastic readers have included Thomas Merton and Denise Levertov. De Vinck passed away at the age of 99 in December 2021.

### Quotes

#### **Praise for *Journey to the Morning Light***

"The poems of Catherine de Vinck typically begin with observations about nature that will remind readers of Mary Oliver's best work, but then go on to connect the natural realm with visions of God's realm. Those connections infuse *Journey to the Morning Light* with insight and optimism in accessible language that is fresh, subtle, and enjoyable." —**A.M. Juster**

#### **Praise for Catherine de Vinck**

"Catherine de Vinck's eloquent, beautiful, sensuous poems convey an underlying hopefulness and often an ecstatic celebration of living." —**Denise Levertov**

"You have a wonderful, Blake-like response to the sacred world." —**Thomas Merton**

"Catherine de Vinck's vision is of all time and place bound together in a single moment...held and redeemed through faith and love despite the agonies of history."  
—**National Catholic Reporter**

### Illustrations

POEMS

# JOURNEY TO THE MORNING LIGHT



CATHERINE  
DE VINCK



PARACLETE PRESS  
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PROLOGUE

MUSE

"I shall not die,  
I shall not go away,  
but don't ask me any questions,  
I shall not answer!"  
—SKELETON (1946-1981)

A full moon disk of hammered silver  
appears in the east window  
as the wind slowly rises in the woods  
stirring the trees newly shrouded with leaves.  
This is the hour of the night angel,  
her pale wings soaring rhythmically  
across the luminous evening.

What am I doing unweaving metaphors  
as if anyone expects the tall ships of poetry  
to roll up and offer safe passage  
across strange seas? And yet the wind  
still lifts great ribbons of song  
from one side of the world to the other.

So I stand quietly on the quay of moonlight  
and welcome the night angel, tender of gifts,  
arriving from the outer reaches.

— 11 —

I  
ANGEL OF SPRING



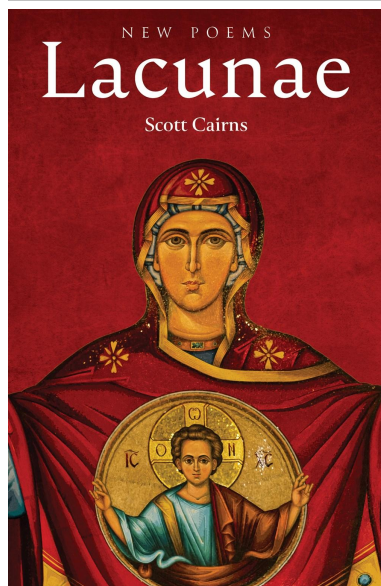
SUMMER

A white egret  
flits across the blue sky  
mirrored in the glassy water  
where a tall heron  
bends stiffly admiring  
its reflection.

Nothing much,  
yet enough to praise  
the muskrat and the turtle,  
enough to praise  
the red wing and the goose,  
above all enough to praise  
the mothering power—  
bearer of life beyond  
the boundaries of mind,  
the limits of language.

As the afternoon slides  
into evening, I walk home  
wrapped in darkness.  
Behind the windows,  
lamps open their corollas.  
A slight wind, scented  
with honeysuckle,  
caresses my face.  
Nothing much,  
yet enough for joy.

— 39 —



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## Lacunae

New Poems  
Scott Cairns

### Summary

#### New poetry from Scott Cairns on containing the uncontainable

Often, when speaking of what he has called the *poetic operation of language*, Scott Cairns has characterized that event as our “glimpsing an indeterminate, inexhaustible enormity within a discrete space.” This is the poet’s continuing fascination with *lacunae*, those spaces, those openings that offer more *within* than appearances can register from outside the ostensible covert of their terms. Cairns is here focused upon how an image, a word, or—in the case of the Theotokos—a *womb* can contain the uncontainable. As Orthodox hymnography avers, she is more spacious than the heavens. So, too, the poet suggests, in its own, modest way, the poem might give birth to more, and more, and yet more than even the poet supposes.

### Contributor Bio

Librettist, essayist, translator, and author of ten poetry collections, **Scott Cairns** is Curators’ Distinguished Professor Emeritus at University of Missouri. His poems and essays have appeared in *Poetry*, *Image*, *Paris Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The New Republic*, and both have been anthologized in multiple editions of *Best American Spiritual Writing*. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006, and the Denise Levertov Award in 2014.

### Quotes

“Once more Scott Cairns’s limpid, laconic, beautifully crafted poetry brings us to the brink of language itself, opens us onto the *lacunae*, the gaps, the spaces left open to God, waiting to be filled with a mystery beyond words. These guide us, in Cairns’s phrase, toward ‘many, fleeting, lit lacunae’, each of which ‘bids the pilgrim enter’ to experience something momentary but also momentous. This is a book to savor slowly and return to often.” —**Malcolm Guite**, author *Lifting the Veil: Imagination and the Kingdom of God* and other collections

“What I notice first in Scott Cairns’s poetry is always his exquisite sense for the beauty of language, a sonic complexity that draws me down the page. Next comes that feeling for a particular mind at work—a mind rich in thought, observation, theology, and wit—a mind always circling unsolvable problems, here figured around the simultaneous elusiveness and presence of the divine, of memory, and of mortality. Always, in *this* book, Cairns considers how the enormous might be contained in the everyday, how the divine can be held in the flash of an image, in a memory, in a thought. I have admired Scott Cairns’ brilliant work for many years. He’s in top form here.” —**Kevin Prufer**, author of *The Fears*

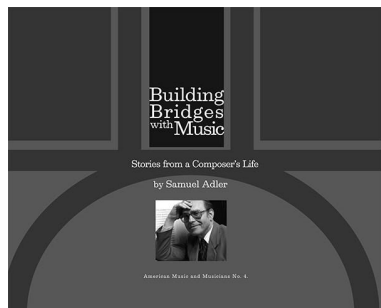
“These elegantly crafted and spiritually wise poems invite us to change how we see the empty spaces or *lacunae* we typically fill with distractions. Rather, Scott Cairns suggests, what is hollowed may become hallowed, places of encounter with the mystery that calls us to stand outside ourselves—calls us, that is, to ecstasy.” —**Gregory Wolfe**, Editor of *Slant Books* and author of *Beauty Will Save the World* and *Intruding Upon the Timeless*

“If you could remix George Herbert with Wallace Stevens, you might get Scott Cairns. Herbert’s theological word play and wit and Stevens’ insatiable mind become a kind of continuous prayer in Cairns’ newest book, *Lacunae*. For Cairns, language is a form of faith, faith that reaches out towards what is inexhaustible and uncontainable, and faith that trusts words can be a means of coming nearer to what necessarily remains out of reach. Cairns’ language roots itself in paradox: words are both “terminus and new departure”; and fullness draws near only as we become more empty. As in late Stevens, Cairns wants to see “what is” and, for him, what is inheres in immanence not

transcendence, our bodies and the world's body "abundantly here." *Lacunae* is the work of a faithful and faith-filled man unafraid of letting his ego be seared, of living in time that continues "ticking in perplexity." —**Robert Cording**, author of *In the Unwalled City* and other collections

"Scott Cairns is the wisest of poets, a courageous figure who maps the contours and textures of the spiritual life with an exacting eye and ear for the music at the questioning heart of faith. His new book, *Lacunae*, is not only his most ambitious and formally various to date but also the most affecting. "Every/ word proves every bit as mysterious as/ the Word himself," he writes, "and every term proves crux—// both terminus and new departure." Here is a poet who daily finds in the quotidian inventive means of charting our ever-evolving relationship to the divine. This is a book for the ages." —**Christopher Merrill**, author of *Flares*





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## Building Bridges With Music

### Stories from a Composer's Life

Samuel Adler

#### Summary

"After over sixty years of teaching and finally retiring for the third time in May of 2016, I felt the urge to write down the many stories I have experienced during my long life. This book covers occurrences from my early childhood in Nazi Germany, emigrating to the United States at age ten, my education on the high school and college levels, my years in the army (an education, to be sure, albeit of a different kind), as well as the many professional experiences as a composer, conductor, teacher, author and administrator both in America and abroad. I have tried to relate the many encounters with some of the most important personalities in the world of music, the other arts, academia, religion, and even politics. My life has been blessed with a most supportive family, many good friends, and a host of students who have made my teaching years rewarding and colorful. Building Bridges with Music seems to have been part of my destiny and I have embraced this enthusiastically whenever the opportunity presented itself. I invite you to have this experience with me through this book." --Samuel Adler

#### Quotes

Charts [Samuel Adler's] long life in this inspirational and lavishly produced book replete with charming anecdotal stories and many interesting photographs. STRINGENDO, AUSTA NATIONAL JOURNAL

Adler's storytelling takes you straight to the heart of significant scenes from his remarkable life. Destiny, talent, passion, zeal and a touch of "workaholism" have placed Adler in key positions to witness events shaping America's 20th and 21st-century musical history. His keen observance and amazing memory make this an extremely thorough account of modern musical life -- at the top of the heap. This transcends other memoirs by the normity of its scope and the intimacy of its details. . . . Such even-handed and honest storytelling of a life so rich offers contemporary commentary with the benefit of hindsight. AMERICAN MUSIC TEACHER

[C]oncise, compelling, and down-to-earth. . . . an engaging read. NEW MUSIC CONNOISSEUR

Told with the same honesty and passion [Adler] brings to his teaching, this volume is both entertaining and instructive, and sure to be an important primary source about American's new music scene in the America of the 20th and early 21st centuries. JULLIARD JOURNAL [Evan Fein]

[A] fascinating book for anyone who has any interest in history or humanity. . . . [E]xtremely well-written. . . . Though his music is well-documented here and his philosophy of composing explained, I can imagine someone enjoying this book who had no interest in music whatsoever. . . . For his part, the composer concludes at the end of his lavishly illustrated book that his life has been ruled by the Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* -- healing or repairing the world so that by our life's work we would leave the world a better place than when we depart from it. Nobody who reads very far in *Building Bridges* will doubt for a moment that this is exactly what Samuel Adler has done. SPECIAL TO THE BLADE

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