



Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry

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Ceiling of Sticks

Shane Book

September 2010

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Book Synopsis:

Shane Book's collection, *Ceiling of Sticks*, is a powerful and unflinching sort of documentary poetics. It bears elegiac witness to the effects of global politics on individual lives. Filled with experiences of Africa and Latin America, California and the Caribbean, family and lost love, these poems resonate with the intensity of truth as it is lived and written.

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Book Description

Winner of the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, Shane Book’s collection, *Ceiling of Sticks*, is a powerful and unflinching sort of documentary poetics. It bears elegiac witness to the effects of global politics on individual lives. Book’s poems carry us to Uganda, Ghana, Mali, Trinidad, and Canada’s west coast; from a religious sacrifice in Tarahumara, Mexico, to Book’s ailing grandfather’s bedside. They bring an intimate vision of humanity to scenes of inhuman atrocity and suffering; a moment of clarity and empathy to individuals overwhelmed by war or other man-made catastrophes. The attentiveness of the poems and meditative lyrics reveal a careful allegiance to their subjects and a fearless refusal to turn away. Filled with experiences of Africa and Latin America, California and the Caribbean, family and lost love, these poems resonate with the intensity of truth as it is lived and written.

Pre-Publication Praise

“These eloquent poems address head-on issues of place and displacement, but not in the usual way. The place in these poems is both inward and outward, a powerful topography of feeling and loss, often remedied by love and always rendered by language and craft. This is a wonderful debut collection.”
—Eavan Boland, author of *New Collected Poems and Domestic Violence*

“Shane Book’s refined epistles unbraid and unfold into natural revelations that are earthbound, spiritual, and unconditional. There’s an unsentimental celebration in *Ceiling of Sticks* that lets us see the smallest feelings beneath a big sky, without any apology, and we can count ourselves as lucky.”—Yusef Komunyakaa, author of *Warhorses and Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems 1977–1989*

“This collection brings a highly developed sense of global politics up for inspection. . . . The elucidation of ‘the political’ is most often centered on the body, thus the poems are both emotionally revealing and gripping.”—Eloise Klein Healy, author of *The Islands Project*

Post-Publication Praise

Please visit this book’s [Web page](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Ceiling-of-Sticks,674669.aspx) (<http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/product/Ceiling-of-Sticks,674669.aspx>) for the most current post-publication praise.

Author Biography



Shane Book is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and was a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. His work has appeared in numerous American, British, and Canadian magazines, in anthologies—including *Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry* and *Breathing Fire 2: Canada's New Poets*—and on film. His honors include a New York Times Fellowship in Poetry, an Academy of American Poets Prize, and a National Magazine Award.

Photo by Archie Book

Additional Information

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