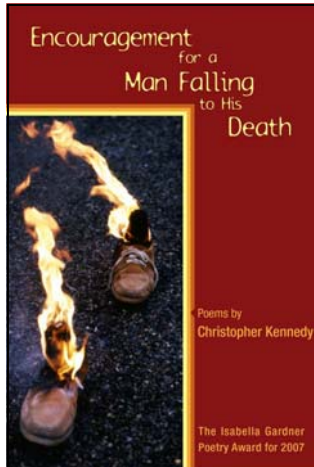




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Christopher Kennedy

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR A MAN FALLING TO HIS DEATH

Poems by

Christopher Kennedy

Winner of the 2007 Isabella Gardner Poetry Award

Christopher Kennedy's poetry is funny, deadpan, self-effacing and revelatory in the way of a man with nothing to lose. His first two books, *Nietzsche's Horse* and *Trouble with the Machine*, are collections of prose poems. The poems are often ironic fables or surreal parables that lampoon the absurdities in contemporary American life.

Kennedy's new collection, *Encouragement for a Man Falling to His Death* is more varied in forms and more personal in tone and themes. *Encouragement* is a mix of verse and prose poems with an emphasis on the former. A number of poems are fourteen lines, contain an octet and sestet, and present an argument which is then reinforced or countered. This more formal style provides the necessary "architecture" for Kennedy to grieve his father's death. Having recently turned fifty himself, the age his father was when he died, Kennedy's poems also reflect his own obsession with the idea of transformation--from the ordinary to the extraordinary, from life to death.

About the Poet

Christopher Kennedy grew up in a working-class suburb of Syracuse, New York. He received a B.A. in English from LeMoyne College and a M.A. in Creative Writing/English from Syracuse University where he is currently the Director of the M.F.A. Program in Creative Writing. Kennedy has published two books of prose poems, *Nietzsche's Horse* and *Trouble with the Machine* and one chapbook of prose poems, *Greatest Hits*. His writing has appeared in print and electronic journals including *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Double Room*, and *Del Sol Review* among many others. Kennedy has received fellowships and awards from the Onondaga County Cultural Resource Center, New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts.

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