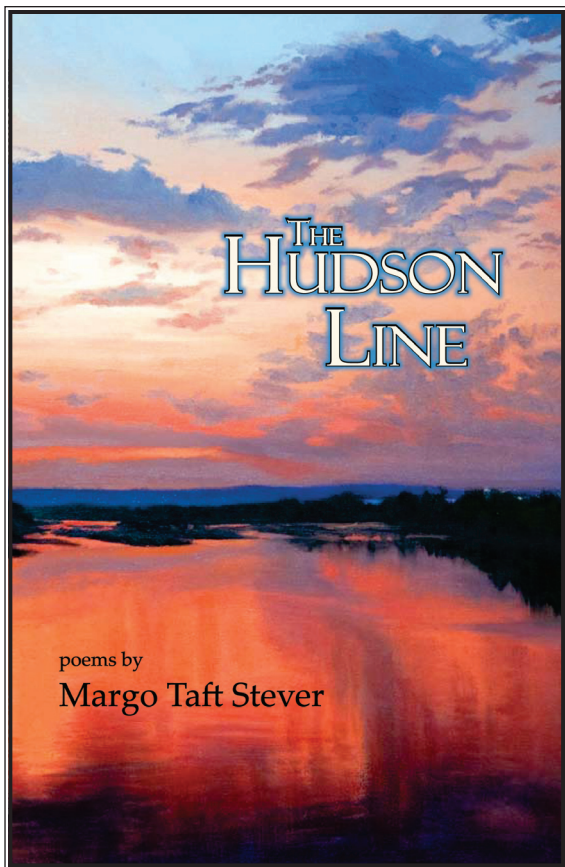


ANNOUNCING: *The Hudson Line* BY Margo Taft Stever

— Published by Main Street Rag —



Margo Stever's poems are brutal and tender, the natural world enmeshed with the mythic. She is a storyteller at heart, a poet of place and purpose. The Hudson Line is vibrant and valiant telling, embracing both darkness and desire.

— Denise Duhamel

Stever's vision and language are stark and unflinching, as is the strange beauty she conjures.

— Suzanne Cleary

The Hudson Line offers us many lyrical gifts of observation, address, tone, and insight. I found myself particularly interested in Stever's ability to build the depth of her character's perception with an image or repetition. ... We meet a man who "pounds his piano / with dumb passion" and a woman who "forgot to ask him something. She forgot what she forgot to ask." This is memorable speech. ... The Hudson Line gives us [a]... poet whose empathy to others, and to the very landscape, is always rooted in the detail of her craft ... detail crystallized into lyric, and the lyric is memorable. This is a beautiful book.

— Ilya Kaminsky

WHY SO MANY POETS COME FROM OHIO

Some say El Niño blows them
over the Rockies and poets pool
like guppies
grounded by the plains, hollowed into Ohio.

How easy it is to forget the nameless
places along the scant,
unremarkable rivers, the burning
polluted creeks. Even horses

pull themselves back from the earth
to ignore where they were born.
Why poets come from Ohio explains
why shopping malls are built to last

only decades, why deer end up dead on I-80.
Poets come from Ohio because
of the homelessness of the hills,
how they are low and rounded,

as if long ago glaciers ran out of energy
on the alluvial plain, leaving them
unstated, looking westward for relief.
Poets who wish to intone

come from Ohio because nothing happens,
only the sonorous gestation of their interiors.
They search the soured hills for daffodils, for tulips,
for everything they thought once grew there.

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MARGO TAFT STEVER is the founder of The Hudson Valley Writers' Center (www.writerscenter.org) and founding editor of Slapering Hol Press. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *The Cincinnati Review*, *Webster Review*, *New England Review*, and *Rattapallax*, among others. Her articles, essays, and reviews are found in the *CT Review*, *Minnesota Review*, *Rain Taxi Review*, *Poets & Writers*, and elsewhere. She read her poetry at the 2010 Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival, Folger Shakespeare Library, The Blacksmith House, Shanghai International Studies University, and at many other places. Her book *Frozen Spring* was the winner of the Mid-List Press First Series Award for Poetry (2002). *Reading the Night Sky* (Introduction by Denise Levertov) won the 1996 Riverstone Poetry Chapbook Competition.