

In closing here are four haiku from this compassionate and transcendent collection:

sweet grass  
a newborn calf  
nuzzling her mother

what's a *slaughter tag*, mommy?

her face, her gaze  
that one could be  
my mother now

make no mistake  
they too desire  
what you & I do



*contractions* by kjmunro, Red Moon Press, ISBN 978-1-947271-36-4 copyright 2019. \$15

*Reviewed by Tom Clausen*

Haiku are by nature a compressed form of poetry and in *contractions* by kjmuro you will find a collection of 90 haiku and senryu that provide an eclectic slice of life.

With superb economy and concision, worthy of the title, kjmunro takes us on a candid tour of her life, delivering poetic experiences with insight.

first date sweating spicy burrito

the view  
from the high diving board  
I saw it once

Arranged with one poem to a page there are pairings of poems juxtaposed across the page from each other that create a strong internal connection with an enhanced sense of understanding and compassion.

folding chairs  
uncomfortable  
at the grief workshop

winter morning—  
porridge in the pot  
breathing

Throughout *contractions* there is an indelible stamp of living in the Yukon, the wounds of loss, and the stretch marks of life. This collection touches high and low and will stay with you long after you have read it.

spring cleaning  
paw prints of the dog  
no longer with us

her room  
as she left it  
the dream catcher stirs



*oars up* by Joe McKeon, 2019 Red Moon Press ISBN 878-1-947271-35-7. \$15.00

*Reviewed by Tom Clausen*

Joe McKeon in *oars up* brilliantly recaptures the breadth of his life, from growing up-coming of age on through his adult life of family and work. The collection is remarkable for both poignant directness and a rewarding range of memory detail.