

Perhaps this could be the first book in a series on this subject.

This is a pivotal book in the realm of photography and haiku as an intersection. It's both a page-turner and a space to contemplate. It offers many lessons for beginners in both disciplines and a lot of food for thought for those who have been engaged in these arts. I can foresee reading this book again and again, as its insights are often transformative. ◻■

### REVIEWED BY JACOB D. SALZER

*Red Leaves: Selected Haiku of Peggy Lyles, Second Edition* (Brooks Books, Taylorville, IL: 2023). 160 pages, 6.42" x 9.42". Clothbound. ISBN: 978-1-929820-23-8. \$24 from [brooksbookshaiku.com](http://brooksbookshaiku.com) (20% discount)

This second edition of selected haiku by Peggy Lyles (edited by Randy & Shirley Brooks) combines the first edition titled "To Hear the Rain" with additional haiku under the section titled "Red Leaves." This new title comes from one of the last haiku Peggy Lyles wrote before she passed away in September of 2010: *into the afterlife red leaves*. John Stevenson wrote the preface for this book and adds a poignant message: "The autumn leaves, in the last phase of thier lives, present us with a final flair of warm colors. These late poems of Peggy Willis Lyles do the same thing..."

In this book, Lyles writes: "Sometimes we say too much. Words get in the way...No wonder haiku are so popular all around the world...Expressed in simple language, they invite the reader to participate as co-creator. Sometimes they seem to leap from heart to heart." In that spirit, here are two haiku by Lyles that touched my heart: (1) *oval frame / a woman curves / around her child*, and (2) *summer night / we turn out all the lights / to hear the rain*. From "To Hear the Rain," these four haiku also stood out to me as excellent examples: (1) *reaching for green pears— / the pull / of an old scar*, (2) *sonic boom / the peony sheds / a small black ant*, (3) *high noon / a cat stares down / the chipmunk's hole*, and (4) *cricket sounds / rise into night / the names of the dead*.

From her haiku in *Red Leaves*, here are four favorites: (1) *sunlit reeds— / a dragonfly thumps / my third eye*, (2) *prayers for peace / a blue turtle rising / from the starry sea*, (3) *a lily bud / swells underwater— / unspoken thoughts*, and (4) *trail's end / the waterfall / and the rest*.

This book concludes with an About the Author section, an Obituary, Publication Credits and Literary Awards. Lyles wrote haiku for over 30 years. Indeed, this book is a celebration of her life and her haiku. We can now join her in that celebration. □■

**Editor's Note:** Per Randy Brooks, "Retail price is \$30 but it may be purchased directly from [brooksbookshaiku.com](http://brooksbookshaiku.com) for a 20% discount price of \$24."

*Coming Home In Viet Nam* by Edward Tick (Tia Chucha Press, San Fernando, CA: 2021). 188 pages, 6" x 9". Paperback. ISBN: 978-1-882688-60-9. \$19.95 from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

*Coming Home In Viet Nam* by Edward Tick, Ph.D. is a collection of haiku, haiku sequences, tanka, one haibun, and longer poems that depict the Vietnam war and its aftermath from different perspectives. In his introduction, Dr. Tick reminds us that even when war ends, it continues within both the people and the land. Following his calling, Dr. Tick states: "I sought every avenue for comprehensive healing of war's invisible wounds." Profoundly, he shares healing stories between Vietnamese people and American veterans in what he calls *reconciliation journeys* where he took veterans back to Vietnam to heal from war memories and PTSD to stop the war within. This forms the foundation of Dr. Tick's poetry in this book.

In the introduction, Dr. Tick states: "There are three voices in these poems." In short, the first voice carries the stories from the Vietnamese people (including the women and children during the war). The second voice is of returning American veterans and their stories. The third voice is the author's experiences and observations. Dr. Tick states: "Poetry is the language of the soul...It allows us to achieve a spiritual intimacy and cultural bridge with the other that transcends differences."