



somewhere  
inside  
yesterday

haiku by  
GREGORY LONGENECKER







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Gregory Longenecker

somewhere inside yesterday

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ISBN 978-1-947271-10-4

Red Moon Press  
PO Box 2461  
Winchester VA  
22604-1661 USA  
[www.redmoonpress.com](http://www.redmoonpress.com)

first printing



For Renate,

who has always encouraged me in my haiku





somewhere  
inside  
yesterday



chrysalis ::



bits and pieces  
of my garden  
sparrows' nest

oak limb—  
holding the dreams  
of nestlings

stepfamily some assembly required

summer solstice  
the ebb and flow  
of neighborhood kids



a lollipop  
left to the ants . . .  
end of summer

garden cafe  
sparrows tend  
the empty tables

narrow alley  
I begin to question  
my assumptions

Veteran's Day—  
accepting some of my wounds  
were self-inflicted

still fragile  
out of the chrysalis  
out of rehab

tree fort secrets I'll never tell

she keeps it all  
wrapped inside  
Hello Kitty lunchbox

pillbug  
if only life were  
that simple



Oort ::



mayfly  
no time  
to look back

business travel  
the ragged wings  
of the monarch

weekend trip  
the weight of something  
left behind

Monday morning  
another day in  
the Oort cloud

curio cabinet  
I open up  
my dream journal

the pale pink  
of summer's past  
seashell shelf



beneath the waves  
the pearled words  
of oysters

autumn tidepools . . .  
dreams of people  
I no longer see

long day ahead  
a red tail hawk catches  
the first thermal

moving day  
we take apart the bed  
our parents' dreamed on

music box somewhere inside yesterday

basement dust  
the things I'd forgotten  
about childhood

estate records —  
sorting through my parents'  
sorrows

wet leaves  
the slippery path  
of memory



moondancing ::



long night  
a mouse gives me something  
to think about

Swiss cheese  
the way she knows me  
inside and out

her old kimono  
in need of repair  
faded blossoms

what  
did they use before  
chimney swifts

wild strawberries  
I remember  
our tangled legs

the gospel according to a wren



almost dawn  
the pillow talk  
of towhees

long walk home  
the leaves I've collected  
all slip away

equinox  
the weight  
of dying light

the time  
we spent together —  
yesterday's rain

dwindling light  
your last words to me  
in a dream

winter solstice  
the parting  
of our ways

without her moondancing





burden ::



the weathered face  
of a mussel shell  
autumn beach

older now  
I sit and listen . . .  
ticking leaves

I see  
how she suffers —  
his stroke

gentle breeze  
a thousand wishes ripple  
through the dandelions

in the end  
it's left to her  
Piéta

crepe myrtle . . .  
bearing the burden  
of blossoms



his eyes half-closed  
I speak in whispers —  
stone Buddha

morning  
the slow silence  
of a snail

childhood  
the silence of God  
on Sunday afternoons

summer twilight . . .  
girls braid and unbraid  
each other's hair

in and out  
of the boxwood hedge —  
wren's song

quiet day  
I add nothing to  
the ramen pack

taking the last  
of the light with them  
departing geese

I wish to thank the editors of the following anthologies, journals and websites in which these haiku/senryu first appeared: *Acorn*, *A Hundred Gourds*, *Above the Clouds: Yuki Teikei Haiku Society Members' Anthology*, *Bending Reeds: Yuki Teikei Haiku Society Members' Anthology*, *Bones*, *bottle rockets*, *cattails*, *Cherry Blossom Light: Yuki Teikei Haiku Society Members' Anthology*, *Deep in the Arroyo: Southern California Haiku Study Group Anthology*, *Ershik*, *Failed Haiku*, *Frogpond*, *Golden Triangle Haiku Contest*, *Heron's Nest*, *Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology*, *H. Gene Murtha Memorial Senryu Contest*, *Mariposa*, *Modern Haiku*, *Prune Juice*, *San Diego Poetry Annual*, *tinywords*, *Under the Basho*, and *What the Wind Can't Touch: Southern California Haiku Study Group Anthology*.



Some of these poems have also received awards from *Ersbik: Journal of Senryu/Kyoka*, Golden Triangle Haiku Contest, H. Gene Murtha Memorial Senryu Contest, Irish Haiku Society Haiku/Senryu Contest, *Shamrock Haiku Journal* and *tinywords*.

I could not have written this book without the support of Deborah Kolodji and the members of the Southern California Haiku Study Group, especially Victor Ortiz who contributed his thoughts on my manuscript, Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball, Dojins of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, as well as all its members and their annual haiku retreat, and Joan Zimmerman who has invited me to participate in several haiku projects.

GREGORY LONGENECKER began his interest in haiku as a teenager when his older brother tossed a book of haiku on his bed and said, "Here's something you might like." Years later, struggling to write a poem on the autumn moon he realized he should write a haiku. His interest has resulted in his ku being published in many journals and receiving numerous awards in the U.S. and abroad. He has been anthologized twice in the *Red Moon Anthology* as well as *Haiku 2014* and *Haiku 2016*, and was featured in *A New Resonance 9: Emerging Voices in English-Language Haiku*. He and his wife, Renate, live in Pasadena, California.







“Gregory Longenecker has assembled a fine collection reflecting a life well- and purposely lived, sprinkled with dollops of delicious good humor. He offers ‘pillbug / if only life were/ that simple,’ and then, with unadorned language and keen observation, skillfully communicates just how complex it really is.”

—Carolyn Hall

“*Somewhere Inside Yesterday* is the intimate work of a mature poet who invites us to experience his world from the inside. Time and diverse relationships often take on a dreamlike quality that rewards the reader through multiple readings.”

—Victor Ortiz

“With a light but unerring touch—a quality borrowed from Bashō—Gregory Longenecker dives deep. This makes the haiku linger for hours, even days. What a gift these poems are!”

—Patricia J. Machmiller

ISBN 978-1-947271-10-4



Haiku / Poetry \$15