

# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *The Great Grandmother Light: New and Selected Poems* by Joe Weil



October 21, 2013 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the release of *The Great Grandmother Light: New and Selected Poems* by Joe Weil. From 1982 until 2002, Joe Weil worked as a tool grinder and union shop steward in a mold making plant. Many poems in this book were written on the graveyard shift while on break. *The Great Grandmother Light* charts the history of his journey from tool grinder to university lecturer. His poems are about the difficulty of quarrying grace in places from which no one expects any to come. His poems read as if he expects to be ambushed by grace at any given moment. This is the great grandmother light, a light present at all times and in all places, that he shares with his readers.

"Weil's poems burn with the passionate conviction that singing itself can be the act that purifies us—or, if not, that there is nothing else to do but sing even as we go down in flames. In poem after poem he reminds us that, at its best, poetry springs from necessity and requires great heart as well as great talent. This isn't art for art's sake; it's for our sake." —*Martin Jude Farawell*

"Like a certain other guy from New Jersey, Joe Weil is 'The Boss.' He, too, writes soul anthems and power ballads of the factory towns and the working class, with consummate skill and rude fidelity. And he has some principles that are still deeply needed by us Americans: compassion for the fallen; tough mindedness; praise for survivors; un-self importance; the ability to tell right from wrong, and to give the finger to the glib, the powerful, and the pretentious." —*Tony Hoagland*

"Reading these poems feels like taking a lunch break with a fresh salami sandwich and good hot coffee, out of sight of the bosses. Joe Weil's voice speaks to our time, edged with the steel of hard-won experience. Which is not to say he won't make you laugh. *The Great Grandmother Light* is a fine, full-bodied collection." —*Joseph Millar*

"No living poet has more influenced me than Joe Weil with ecstatic poems of grit and light. Reading Weil is to witness our own American Miguel Hernandez. Part Spanish surrealist, part Union rep, part ironic comedian....Weil's poems rise with wit and wonder." —*Sean Thomas Dougherty*

Joe Weil grew up in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He is a lecturer in the creative writing department at Binghamton University and currently lives in Binghamton with his wife, the poet Emily Vogel, and their infant daughter, Clare.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.