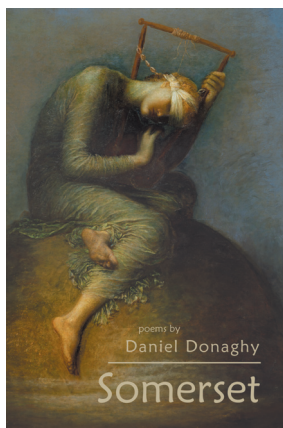


Press Release

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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *Somerset* by Daniel Donaghy



April 16, 2018 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Somerset* by Daniel Donaghy. *Somerset* is an elegy for the Kensington section of Philadelphia in which the author was raised. Using a variety of styles and forms, it remembers people and cultures struggling to survive in the aftermath of deindustrialization and, now, an opioid epidemic. It is also a study in how our past continually informs our present, how we never fully leave those places in which our younger selves were formed. *Somerset* bears witness to racism, poverty, violent crime, and drug use, but also finds forgiveness, thankfulness, and love.

Daniel Donaghy is a courageous, risk-taking poet; he's a truth teller who draws an unflinching picture of life in a dying Philadelphia neighborhood after white flight and racial tensions escalate. He makes us feel his own humiliation and shame, a kind of shadow he carries with him even into adulthood and the suburban life he's made for himself, his wife, and children. These are beautiful, tender, painful, unforgettable poems. I love them because they make me remember what it means to be human.

—Maria Mazziotti Gillan, American Book Award Winner

Somerset begins where “dome light leaks through tinted windows/thumping at intersections.” Lehigh Street, Kensington—Philly in the '80s, the El clacking and sparking overhead. Each intersection thereafter hopped up on its own electric energy: intersection of weed and wet, hooker and Strangler. The four-square intersections framing Needle Park. The fire-framed intersection of the Philly P.D. and the Africas. [...] This collection is the one that Daniel Donaghy, Kenzo kid, has been writing toward his entire life, here the consummate formal craftsman of poem after candid, tough, unflinching poem. We can face it all and sometimes even face it down, they tell us; we can “rise/together, laughing, toward our evenings.”

—Steve Myers, Pushcart Prize winning author of *Memory's Dog*, *Work Site*, and *Last Look at Joburg*

In *Somerset*, Daniel Donaghy has composed a page-turning, lyrical collection that provides a tragicomic reminiscence of Philadelphia. Donaghy is a master storyteller, and each poem provides a candid and at times touching snapshot of neighborhoods and families who fight and love at all cost. [...] Throughout the book, Donaghy brings us into the streets of Philadelphia in a way that makes the reader feel like he, too, has lived there, like he, too, has taken the trains, like he, too, has lived in the same apartments and houses that inspired these poems. Few collections can capture the essence of a city the way that *Somerset* does.

—José B. Gonzalez, award-winning author of the poetry collections *Toys Made of Rock* and *When Love Was Reels*

Daniel Donaghy is a Professor of English at Eastern Connecticut State University. His previous poetry collections are *Start with the Trouble* (University of Arkansas Press, 2009), winner of the Paterson Award for Literary Excellence, and *Streetfighting* (BkMk Press, 2005). He has received grants from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Artist and the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts as well as the *Southern Humanities Review's* Theodore Christian Hoepfner Award. He was raised in Philadelphia, PA.

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.



photo by Abigail Donaghy