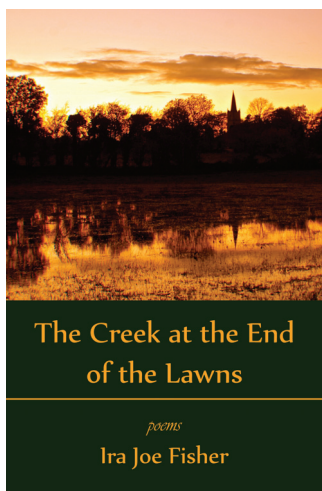


Press Release

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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *The Creek at the End of the Lawns* by Ira Joe Fisher



September 1, 2012 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the release of *The Creek at the End of the Lawns* by Ira Joe Fisher. With this, his fourth collection of verse, Fisher delves into the minds and lives lived in both a village and a city. Trees and streets and haunted hills figure in these poems. How does one negotiate each day's path as well as the shadows of night? These poems suggest a person—a soul—doing so, or dying in the trying. Fisher's well-crafted narrative and lyric verse creates a conversation which draws the reader into an investigation of both life and self and assures that each reading of this book is a rare verbal and visual treat to be enjoyed again and again.

"Naturalist, anti-war activist, lover of 'the wolf-wise wind...on its never resting rounds,' Ira Joe Fisher sets us beside himself over the years in the village of Annville where, with him, in summer we watch a gull stitch rain-filled clouds together and after a winter snow, know that 'frost will flower the sidewalk.' At times, the whole village is a tableau; at times, the poet sees through it as clearly as through the Al-legheny he sees 'the pebbles on the bottom.'

The title poem is the dramatic story of 'the boy' in his self-defining defiance of 'the ghost of the vil-lage' being floated away by the creek only to come back with warm memories and grand love—full of humor, self-awareness, and joy."

—F. D. Reeve, author of *The Blue Cat Occupies the Moon*

"Ira Joe Fisher is my friend but, it turns out, I don't know him at all. The man who tells me of 'the day I found words' and warns me that 'goodbyes / must be noted' and takes me to a place where 'spring is more a hope than a season' is a stranger whose introspections are oddly unsettling in their raw artistry. To borrow from the old ballad, 'Ira, I hardly knew ye.'"

—Nick Clooney, newsman and author of *The Movies that Changed Us*

"Robert Frost, Ira Joe Fisher's and my maestro, famously said that writing poetry without rhyme or meter was like playing tennis with the net down. Fisher sets his nets about half-mast—his rhymes are mostly internal and his cadences entirely his own. I love this book (great title, by the way) for its specificity, its deep noticing, its passionate spirit, and a heart so full it seems about to explode."

—Thomas Lux

Ira Joe Fisher was born in western New York State in leafy, snowy Little Valley. He dreamed of being a broadcaster and was hired—at age 16—as a disk jockey at WGGO Radio in Salamanca. He dreamed of being a broadcaster...and a poet. In the years since, he has loved the blessing of both. He has appeared on radio, television, the New York stage, and in film. He teaches poetry at the University of Connecticut in Stamford, Torrington, and Waterbury and at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry.

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 Bill Snellings