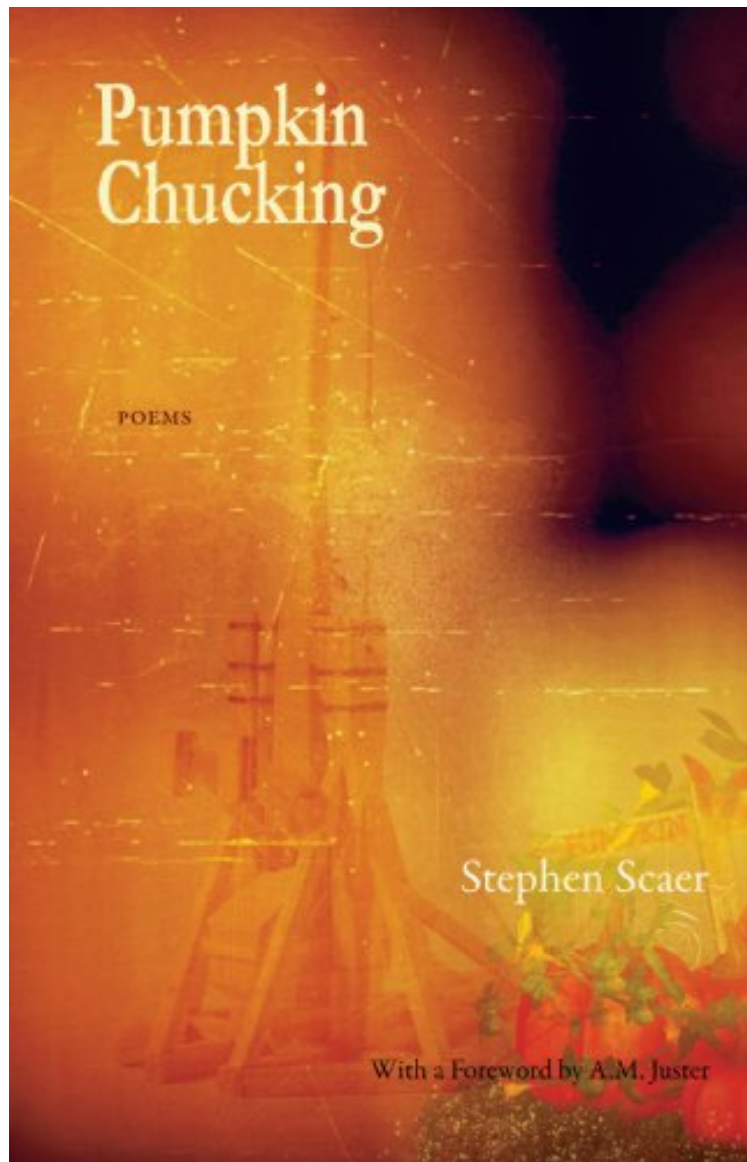


(Free read ebook) Pumpkin Chucking: Poems

Pumpkin Chucking: Poems

Stephen Scaer

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Stephen Scaer : Pumpkin Chucking: Poems before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pumpkin Chucking: Poems:

Stephen Scaers Pumpkin Chucking is a harvest of wit and enlightenment, gleaned from everyday situations. Scaer shows impressive formal dexterity, and inventive use of nonce and received formssonnet, double-dactyl, Old-English-

style alliterative meter; he turns the limerick on its head as it transforms into a humor-laden meditative tool in sequences such as *Mid-Life Limericks* and *Classical Limericks*. Scaers delivery is immediate, simple but never simplistic, laying bare the human condition to reveal that The triumphs that [we] seek/ are held for their own sake,/ and shower us with grace/ like petals on the grass. This finalist for the 2012 Able Muse Book Award is a rare achievement in its deft marriage of the lighthearted and sublime. It is a book to relish from start to finish. **PRAISE FOR PUMPKIN CHUCKING:** Right from the opening sonnet in *Pumpkin Chucking*, the poignant Hannah at Ten, you'll recognize Scaer as an outstanding lyric poet. But the prevailing voice in this collection belongs to a hugely entertaining, middle-aged, middle-class Everyman writing about the everyday. Take the lifeguard, sung in Old-English-style alliterative meter whistle-whirler, *Thane of the Poconos*. Or the Hercules who can divert rivers into Augean stables with no hassles from the EPA. (And both of these pale compared to Scaers *Classical Limericks*.) Some of the poems are exquisitely lyrical: *Light Box*, *Raspberry Patch*, *Long Trail*. Still, what you take away from the book is Scaers deadpan humora wit thats wicked but not mean. Often as not, the speaker is himself the target. And the more the guy makes fun of himself, the more we love him. He speaks for us all. Deborah Warren Stephen Scaers *Pumpkin Chucking* celebrates the New England landscape while still being universal . . . and it surprises us with wit in the winking way of Frost. A.M. Juster (from the foreword) A collection with a range of forms as broad as Stephen Scaers *Pumpkin Chucking* can read like an exercise book or like a tour of the expressive possibilities of all of English poetry. This book is decisively the latter. From the delightful *Mid-Life Limericks* to the modern idiom shaped to Anglo-Saxon alliterative verse in *Wendell*, each poem feels utterly natural, utterly native to the form. And dont miss *Sarcasm*, a sonnet that deftly recasts Petrarchs jewels of transcendent love as stones that wound both lover and beloved. Richard Wakefield This is a wonderful and entertaining book of poetry. Stephen Scaers poems are full of wit, sarcasm and humor. His subjects are familiar to many of us: parenting, tedious jobs, home repair, dealing with middle age. But his well-crafted versethe rhymes alone are worth the price of admissionis much more than that. Reading the poems, I was reminded of the voice of *Screwtape* dispensing advice to his devil-in-training nephew in C.S. Lewiss *The Screwtape Letters*: the humor is aimed directly at that familiar reflection in the mirror. When I was done reading and admiring these poems, I was left feeling like the narrator standing by his grill smoking a rack of ribs in Scaers *The Sacrifice of Cain*: I wish I were a better man. Robert Crawford **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Stephen Scaer of Nashua, NH, is a special education teacher with poems published in *National Review*, *First Things*, *Cricket*, and *Highlights for Children*. *Pumpkin Chucking* was a finalist for the 2012 Able Muse Book Award.