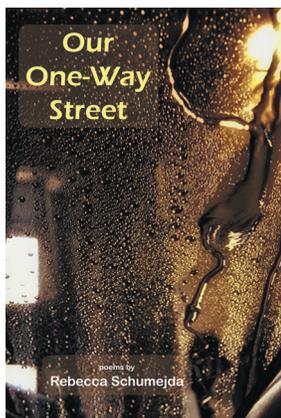


# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *Our One-Way Street* by Rebecca Schemejda



October 2, 2017 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Our One-Way Street* by Rebecca Schemejda. *Our One-Way Street* is a series of poetic snapshots of a working-class neighborhood and its quirky inhabitants. Schemejda zooms the lens in and out on herself as well as neighbors trying to make it through the day in hopes of a better tomorrow. Characters from Schemejda's other books take on minor roles in this collection, such as Jolene, a waitress from *Waiting at the Dead End Diner* and Willy the Whale, an old school pool hustler from *Cadillac Men*. The hero of the story, the one who is at the crux of inspiration, is the crazy, old lady from down the street, who jumps on the back of a motorcycle, puts her cupped hands over the driver's groin and tells him to head the wrong way up their one-way street.

"Rebecca Schemejda's poetry is as real and vivid as the hard lives of the characters she describes and knows in her bones, in her fingers around a barroom pool cue or a diner coffee cup. In her hands a cue ball, a rosary bead, a broken tooth, a balloon, an 8-ball frozen against the rail, a stuck umbrella can tell a character's whole life story. Fascinating poetry that renders our unique human lives universal."

—Fred Voss, author of *Hammers and Hearts of the God*

"Rebecca Schemejda charts the lives and voices of people who matter most but are heard from least. The characters and voices that populate Schemejda's *Our One-Way Street* embody the truest America—a hard place where working people work hard, but can't get by, where everyone's teetering on disaster, but still holding onto the dream that somehow, together maybe, we'll all make it out alive. In Schemejda's America, the sun shines unbiased on places that are no longer beautiful. Thank everything for Rebecca Schemejda and this wise, honest, big-hearted book."

—Lori Jakiela, author of *Belief Is Its Own Kind of Truth, Maybe*

"Let's be clear: Rebecca Schemejda's admirable poems push the envelope on what is seen as 'fit' subject matter for poetry. She bravely establishes a position, a self, from which to speak in her poems as a worker, a real worker, not a political abstraction. This laboring voice goes against the grain of academic politics and aesthetics. It says workers belong at the center of their lives in poems. This voice, combined with the discernment that fuels great poetry, makes her poems singular achievements."

—Don Winter, author of *Saturday Night Desperate*

Rebecca Schemejda is the author of several poetry collections including *Falling Forward* (sunny outside press, 2009), *Cadillac Men* (NYQ Books, 2012), *Waiting at the Dead End Diner* (Bottom Dog Press, 2014), as well as five chapbooks, most recently *Common Wages*, which she co-authored with Don Winter. She received her MA in poetics from San Francisco State University. She currently lives with her family in New York's Hudson Valley.



photo by Kaya Lanier

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.

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