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NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Paper Birds Don't Fly* by Al Ortolani



April 25, 2016 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Paper Birds Don't Fly* by Al Ortolani. Ortolani's poems are a mix of small town memories and present day realities. They share both humor and sorrow, longing and contentment, often in the irony of a single experience. Many are set in Southeastern Kansas, a geographical region rich in the texture of its free-thinking people. The poems pinch the mundane arm. They bleed with the colors of everyday experience. *Paper Birds Don't Fly* is as accessible to the reader as wind blowing autumn leaves or hedge trees intertwined with barbed wire, demarcating a bean field.

Timothy Green, Editor, *Rattle*

Paper Birds Don't Fly reads like a road trip through the Midwestern mind. It's a long book of poems, with room for many moods and musings as it meanders through a landscape of humor and insight. Ortolani has packed all we need for the journey: a friendly voice, a bit of music, and the deft hand of a true storyteller guiding the wheel.

Denise Low, Kansas Poet Laureate 2007-09 and author of *Mélange Block*

Al Ortolani stuns his readers like a stage magician. He abracadabra-s ordinary sights into miracles, like an origami paper bird sent from his dead father in a dream. Memory wafts through the familiar as the poet's steady, measured voice reveals how language is metaphor for everything. This book is essential reading in the 21st century.

Thomas Fucaloro, author of *Mistakes Disguised as Stars*

There is something quite unique to Ortolani's creation of a poem. It dips into a piece of Americana without being preachy or condescending, allowing for the reader to embrace what is on the page for themselves. There is a playful tone to this work but the feeling of it is poignant as hell.

Linda Lerner, author of *Yes, the Ducks Were Real*

Al Ortolani eases the reader into a boy's world so effortlessly in *Paper Birds Don't Fly*, a town where "time hung like a slow curve," we don't think about where he's taking us. This is the town he grew up in and is intrinsically a part of. Anecdotal incidents involving friends and family, the day-to-day little things of their lives build to the universal.

Although born in Huntington, New York, Al Ortolani has spent most of his life in eastern Kansas. Growing up in the college town of Pittsburg, Kansas, he moved to the Kansas City area where he currently teaches high school English. He also taught English at Pittsburg State University as an adjunct. His poetry and reviews have appeared in journals such as *Rattle*, *Prairie Schooner*, *New Letters*, *Tar River Poetry*, and the *New York Quarterly*. He has published six collections of poetry. His book, *Waving Mustard in Surrender* (NYQ Books), was short-listed for the Milt Kessler Poetry Book Award from Binghamton University. As the son of a coach and Olympic athletic trainer, he spent much of his childhood under the tutelage of college-aged football and baseball players. That said, his mother read to him from Longfellow, and his father took time after a long drive to point out the birthplace of Walt Whitman.



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.