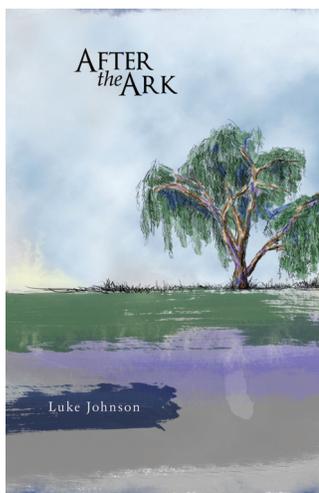


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## NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *After the Ark* by Luke Johnson



January 15, 2011 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *After the Ark* by Luke Johnson. In this, Luke Johnson's remarkable first collection of poetry, Johnson chronicles the author's upbringing as the son of two ministers. A seasonal triptych, the poems root themselves in the landscapes they inhabit: from the boulder fields of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the endless dusk of Clam Gulch, Alaska, to a half-frozen lake in Upstate New York. These poems ask the reader to move inward, to look hard at loss and see it stark and sure. The narrative, often deceptively formal poems, show us the affects domestic tragedies can have on a family's faith in each other, how absence can color their collective memory. Each one is a small proof that no matter the magnitude of the flood, through remembering there can always be salvage. These poems ask the reader to believe there is something left worth saving.

Kathryn Stripling Byer says of *After the Ark*, "I don't recall being so moved by a body of poems—surely not any time recently. I'm moved in all ways—not just the details, the family, the place, the memories, but how sturdy the language is, how it never thins out against the subject it is expressing, the emotion that moves it." And Kelly Cherry says, "In his exceptionally fine début, *After the Ark*, Luke Johnson exhibits superb craftsmanship and a precociously profound, sympathetic understanding of human nature."

R. H. W. Dillard says, "Luke Johnson is a poet with a keen and open eye—open to human failings, human feelings, and to the hard specifics of the natural world in which and through which we live and love, betray and atone, are abandoned and are found." And Claudia Emerson concludes that "This beautifully made collection is the welcome work of a poet crossing the threshold of a remarkable career."

Luke Johnson's poems have appeared in *The New York Quarterly*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Greensboro Review*, *Best New Poets*, and elsewhere. His awards include prizes from the Academy of American Poets and the *Atlantic Monthly*, as well as a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference. He received his B.A. from Elon University and his M.F.A. from Hollins University, where he was a teaching fellow. He lives in Seattle, Washington.

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.

