

Boomerangs in the Living Room
Poetry by Rex Wilder
ISBN 978-1-59709-269-2
Binding: Tradepaper
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Rex Wilder



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POETRY BY
Rex Wilder

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Rex Wilder's second collection introduces the world to a new form: the boomerang. These "admirable throwaways" (so nicknamed by Richard Wilbur, who advised the author on their shape) must rhyme the first word or syllable with the last. The opening salvo must suggest a coda, the bullet must return to its chamber. In the process, the poem moves like a boomerang: according to Wilbur, "a thrown boomerang has three phases: it flies to first base (as it were), then travels over to third and rises, then swoops home." *Boomerangs in the Living Room* catches in its sweep literature's classic themes: love, death, family, sex. The poems that come swooping back are seductive, destructive, endlessly quotable, and heartbreakingly beautiful.

Praise for *Boomerangs in the Living Room*

"In a vibrant literary age, poetic innovation often expresses itself by creating new forms. Rex Wilder has added a promising new form to the store of English-language poetry—the boomerang. Compressed but surprisingly flexible, the boomerang can handle themes both light and heavy. Who knows? Wilder's new form may become an American alternative to the haiku."

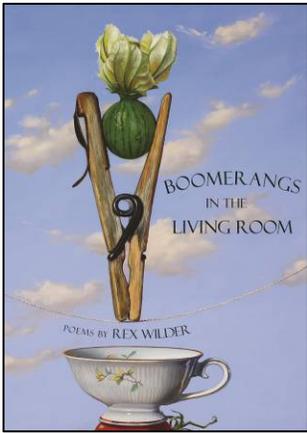
—Dana Gioia

"With the 'Boomerang,' Rex Wilder, gifted by the great poet Richard Wilbur, adds to the storehouse of truly American forms. It sits regally alongside /The Bop/ and /The Blues/. You'll find the thrown arc of these poems equally infectious and addictive. The poems in this book are kinetically alive, whimsical, and compelling."

—Major Jackson

Biographical Note

Rex Wilder's poems have appeared in publications such as *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *Yale Review*, and *The Times Literary Supplement*. He is the author of *Waking Bodies*, which takes "the tired English of everyday use" and brings it "back to us refreshed and full of its original surprise," according to Billy Collins. Wilder is editing an anthology called *There and Back*, featuring original boomerangs from a diverse range of poets around the world. He is the Chief Creative Strategist for Advertising for Humanity, a marketing firm specializing in charities and community foundations. He lives in Brentwood, California.



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More Praise for *Boomerangs in the Living Room*

“Rex Wilder’s second book continues his earlier advocacy of pleasures (in art, in life), though here pleasures arrive enriched by responsibilities—that they be invented, felt, sustained. His boomerang poems, for example, for all their easy delights in aerial open roads, require return, and return, reckoning, an adult treat.”

—Judith Hall

“With these poems—sly and friendly as a wink—Rex Wilder makes compression look like the most expansive gesture in the universe.”

—Dana Goodyear

“Boomerangs return you to where you started, but for the first time. Wilder’s best boomerangs are wake-up poems, sprinkled with images (I have spent my life trying to reattach cut flowers) that have a twist in their tail; one that sometimes leaves me not knowing whether to laugh or cry.”

—Roger Housden

From *Boomerangs in the Living Room*

FOUND)

Found:
Home from the beach, an argument
we thought the surf
had drowned.

LOVE)

Love breaks
against dawn’s shore until
no bed is wide
enough.