



New from
Red Hen Press

MEDIA CONTACT: Monica Fernandez, Media Director, media@redhen.org

P.O. Box 40820, Pasadena, CA 91114 / (626) 356-4760 / fax: (626) 356-9974 / redhen.org

A Fire in the Hills

POETRY BY
Afaa Weaver

“Weaver’s poems-as-small-fires smolder with the beauty of lives ignored, demanding the reader be present while Weaver’s voice speaks out from an activated palimpsest of histories.” —Rajiv Mohabir, author of *Antiman*

In *A Fire in the Hills*, Afaa focuses on one of the central threads in his body of work. His ongoing project of an articulation of self in relation to the external landscape of the community and the world and the writing of spirit through those revelations of sublimation of self gives way here to a material focus. The racial references are explicit as are the complexities of life lived as a Black man born in America in the mid-twentieth century. These are poems emanating from an attempt to follow Daoist philosophy for most of his life. Knowledge of other is in relation to knowledge of self, and self is an illusory continuum, a perspective wherein the poet embodies the transcendent arc of Malcolm X's life as credo.

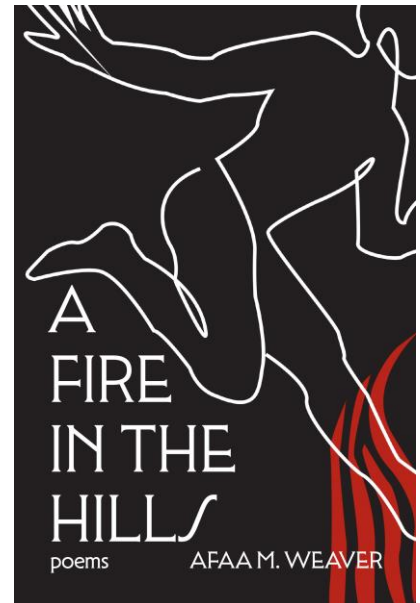
ADVANCE PRAISE

The splendid *A Fire in the Hills* holds lyrical inventories, telepathic persona poems, "southern chants for spells," "spinning top hairdos," and invented forms. Afaa Weaver can write any kind of poem you can imagine. He is our black nonconforming formalist breaking free of form to shape a spirit of witness. He is both our sage bear-poet of wisdom and our wily fox-poet of mischief. He's been writing long enough to resist all classifications except that of Master Poet.

—**Terrance Hayes**, author of Hurston/Wright 2019 Award for Poetry-winner, American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Afaa Michael Weaver (尉雅風)—previously known as Michael S. Weaver—is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, where he graduated Polytechnic High School at the age of sixteen. After two years at the University of Maryland in College Park, he left to spend fifteen years working in Baltimore factories, during which time he wrote and published poetry, journalism, and short fiction, as well as founded 7th Son Press. He received the Kingsley Tufts Award, the Phillis Wheatley Book Award, four Pushcart Prizes, and been published in two volumes of *Best American Poetry*. His other awards include the Mae Sarton Award, a Pew Fellowship in poetry (1998), a Fulbright appointment (2002) to teach in Taiwan, the Gold Friendship Medal (2005) from the Beijing Writers Association, and a Guggenheim Fellowship (2017) in poetry. He lives in the Hudson Valley area of New York with Kristen Skedgell, his wife. www.magichorses.org



PUB DATE: April 11, 2023

ISBN: 9781636280820

SIZE: 6 x 9

FORMAT: Casebound

EXTENT: 88pp

PRICE: \$21.95

MEDIA CONTACT

Monica Fernandez
Media Director
626-406-1206
media@redhen.org

MARKETING CONTACT

Tobi Harper
Marketing Director
626-406-1209
marketing@redhen.org

REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ingram Publisher Services
an exclusive distribution entity

ORDERING INFORMATION

Tel: 800-252-7012
ips@ingramcontent.com
ipage.ingramcontent.com



MORE PRAISE FOR *A FIRE IN THE HILLS*

Afaa M. Weaver's *A Fire in the Hills* burns through violences internal and external – whether in Chicago, in schools, in public pools, by police against Black folks – while writing back to America. Weaver's poems-as-small-fires smolder with the beauty of lives ignored, demanding the reader be present while Weaver's voice speaks out from an activated palimpsest of histories. There is no looking away, these holy flames prophecy renewal. From the Black Lives Matter movement to surviving the threat of gun violence; poems to Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Elizabeth Bishop, and Tupac Shakur; against landscapes of Chicago, the American South, AME Churches, and the New York City subway, each of these flames is elegy and ceremony: joy and darkness together woven into a whole as songs of mourning and songs of celebration.

—Rajiv Mohabir, author of *Antiman*

FROM *A FIRE IN THE HILLS*

From "When I Think of Vietnam"

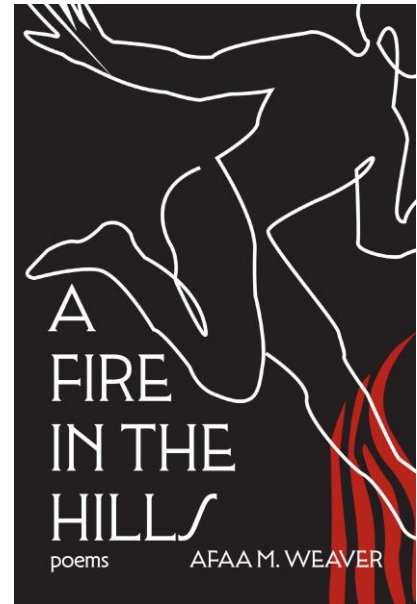
"The life that smothers and gluts us makes it tough to believe the lies we Americans tell ourselves about who Americans are and what belongs to us."

From "In a Border Town"

"In all of this we are overgrown ants, brittle on the tongue, held up above ourselves singing southern chants for spells to soften the hard."

From "This Civil War Yet Unresolved"

"Stonewall Jackson said *Let us lie up under the tree for awhile and stop aching.*"



PUB DATE: April 11, 2023

ISBN: 9781636280820

SIZE: 6 x 9

FORMAT: Casebound

EXTENT: 88pp

PRICE: \$21.95

MEDIA CONTACT

Monica Fernandez

Media Director

626-406-1206

media@redhen.org

MARKETING CONTACT

Tobi Harper

Marketing Director

626-406-1209

marketing@redhen.org

REDHEN PRESS

DISTRIBUTED BY

Ingram Publisher Services

an exclusive distribution entity

ORDERING INFORMATION

Tel: 800-252-7012

ips@ingramcontent.com

ipage.ingramcontent.com