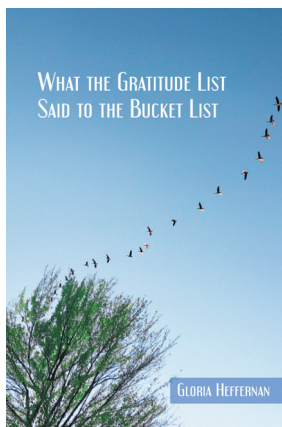


Press Release

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NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List* by Gloria Heffernan



October 18, 2019 - Beacon, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List* by Gloria Heffernan. This book is an invitation to notice the world around us and appreciate its gifts. Heffernan pays homage to the loved ones who have shaped her world view, and the poets who have inspired her to express that view. A firm adherent to Jack Gilbert's declaration that we must "risk joy," Heffernan invites readers to do exactly that—even while recognizing grief that often goes hand-in-hand with gratitude.

"Gloria Heffernan's collection of poetry *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List* contains poems that dance between mourning and morning, grief and blessing, aspiration and finality. In one poem she looks through her deceased sister's trifocals. As a metaphor these trifocals provide us with a way to view

her poetry as engaging three prevailing interlocking themes: family (and relationships), place, and language. Always, she delights in 'the maze of language,/ mesmerizing me with its/ texture and taste....' Through a spiraling out of words and wisdom, she creates vivid epiphanic stories. I welcome this book with much gratitude—and encourage you to put it on your own bucket list."

—Patrick Lawler, author of *Child Sings in the Womb* and *Feeding the Fear of the Earth*

"As we read Gloria Heffernan's new poetry collection, *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List*, we come into the sacred space that Heffernan's love of language and life has made. Within this vibrant book, mourning and morning beautifully fuse as all poems become love poems, for here in these pages even deep and terrible grief is held, here strangers have kind hands, and small paradises are found both in clouds and in the workaday world. When she was a child, Gloria Heffernan's mother told her, 'Go write a story.' We are so lucky she did.

—Annie Lighthart, author of *Iron String*

"Gloria Heffernan's *What the Gratitude List Said to the Bucket List* is a study in balancing desire against need, grief against acceptance, and the known against the mysterious. What can't her imagination render both familiar and new at once? Here is a child who, in the wake of Kennedy's assassination, discovers the magic of language... a woman who, being lifted in a harness by a helicopter after a medical emergency, still manages to appreciate a view that 'tourists can't buy.' The poems here exhibit an eye for careful detail that is equally adept at rendering anew a garage sale, a husband's snoring, a struggling parent, or an ICU room. This is a heart-felt and heart-moving new book."

—Philip Memmer, author of *Pantheon*

Gloria Heffernan is the author of two chapbooks: *Hail to the Symptom* (Moonstone Press) and *Some of Our Parts* (Finishing Line Press). Her work has appeared in numerous journals including *Anchor*, *Chautauqua*, *Stone Canoe*, *Columbia Review*, *Louisville Review*, and *The Healing Muse*. She is an adjunct instructor at Le Moyne College and teaches at The Downtown Writers Center at the Syracuse YMCA. She lives in Syracuse with her husband Jim and their dog, Max.



photo by Jim Heffernan

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.