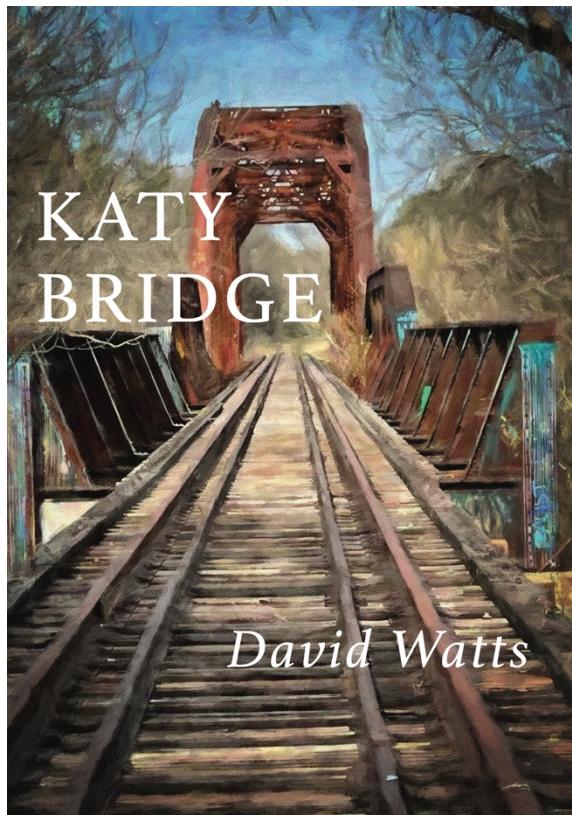


Houston, Texas – September 25, 2023 – Press Release: Saint Julian Press is proud to announce a new book of poetry, *Katy Bridge*, by author David Watts, to be published on November 17, 2023. *Katy Bridge* spans the San Gabriel River north of Georgetown, Texas, the growing-up home of writer and poet David Watts. It serves as a resource and metaphor for the contented peace this collection builds through careful attention to a deep-lived life.



These are tender poems that encompass a physician/poet's lifetime—memories of school and first girlfriends of serious love and physical loving of presences and absences, of the mysteries and revelations of the human body—poems that linger at the borders of our beautiful and ever-changing natural world. He is a poet of spot-on and evocative images, a poet who has touched death and so can show us how to rejoice in the living, finally reassuring us that "every small leaving is tender." Here, we find moments of humor tinged with sorrow, sorrow tinged with joy, gifted to us in poems sparkling and accomplished.

— Cortney Davis
Taking Care of Time and Daughter

"The past comes to me," writes David Watts in one of the many excellent poems in *Katy Bridge*. And indeed, it does. In poems both meditative and ruminative, Watts helps readers see what he sees and feel what he feels when he is visited by particularly poignant memories. When merged with candid observations from the present, *Katy Bridge* becomes a kaleidoscope of invention and experience we are all invited to look through.

— Dean Rader
Winner of the T. S. Eliot Prize for Poetry

A deep abiding tenderness courses through David Watts' latest collection *Katy Bridge*. With grace and precision, the poet places us right there on the bridge beside him, where "walking the rails gets a tad different with trestles on either side. Always a train somewhere up the tracks." Here is the radiant present, perfectly expressed, and the bridge becomes both memory and metaphor. These wise, wide-awake poems reveal each moment as a bridge between past and future, the body as a bridge between mysteries, and love as a bridge between solitudes. Like stones "rounded by the watery sandpaper of the ocean" and "polished . . . with my thumb, withdrawing some element of me upon them, shiny as a blessing," these poems seem to be patiently shaped by the process of living in this world, then polished in the rare luminosity of Watts' vision. This is a book to savor and return to.

— Erin Rodoni

And If The Woods Carry You

Winner of The Southern Indiana Review Michael Waters Poetry Prize

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Thirty-four books from the pen of David Watts have been published: short stories, mysteries, westerns, Christmas memoirs, NPR commentaries, haiku, small books of aphoristic wisdoms, translation, and at the heart of it all, poetry. Trained as a physician and classical musician he turned to poetry mid-life and has never turned back. He has led workshops nationally and teaches poetry at the Fromm Institute of San Francisco. His interest in the contribution of the unconscious to the process of creation has led to a body of imaginative work under the pen name, Harvey Ellis, a leaping, associative voice that is to be found as a quiet influence in parts of the current work. His new project is a collection of essays and reflections.

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If you would like to review the book, contact Ron Starbuck or David Watts, for a *PDF Advance Copy*.

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