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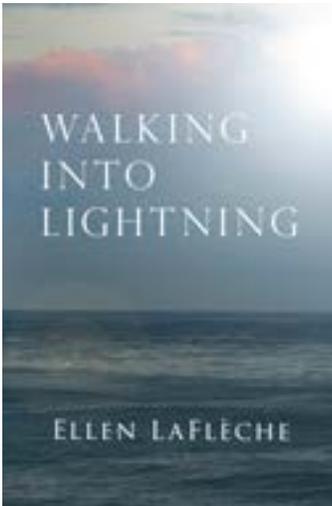
[Saddle Road Press](#) announces a new book of poems by Ellen LaFlèche

[Walking Into Lightning](#)

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\$18. Trade paper. 68 pages. ISBN 978-1-7329521-2-6. Distributed through Ingram.

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Walking into Lightning explores the dying of the poet's husband of ALS in 2014, and the first years of widowhood. With profound sensuality and intense imagery, these poems speak of the physicality of love and loss, and the whole territory of grieving: its violence and its ordinariness, the interplay of memory, desire, and sorrow. An extraordinary book for those dealing with loss.



PRAISE FOR *WALKING INTO LIGHTNING*

Walking into Lightning is a tender, fierce, raging, stunning book that left me breathless. How generous of Ellen LaFlèche to share this intimate love story with the world! Her metaphors go straight to the heart: seagulls hover “like crosses over the waning tides;” dawn is “a languid unfurl, / a woman releasing her hair pin by pin from her nape;” and an IV bag is “a goblin’s bobbling head.” The tension between the sensual and the sorrowful makes this book stand out from other poetry collections about loss and death. *Walking into Lightning* is an extraordinary collection that teaches us how to live each moment to the fullest.

—Lesléa Newman, author of *I Carry My Mother* and *Lovely*

Rich, sensuous, “steam lifting off your shoulders like a departing spirit,” these poems by a new widow bring the moment of a husband’s last days and death into poetic and spiritual focus. “Dying,” the poet reminds the reader, “might be like that.” As it was, as I believe it was—though I needed these poems to remind me, as they have reminded her, and to let us both breathe out again.

—Jane Yolen, author of *The Radiation Sonnets* and *Owl Moon*

The title of Ellen LaFlèche’s *Walking into Lightning* aptly describes the experience of reading her book. Poem after poem, the reader is dazzled by her sensuous imagery and emotional intelligence—by her poignant depiction of what it means to have loved another person “body and soul.” At a time when I seem to be surrounded by widows, LaFlèche gave me illuminating glimpses of a sorrow beyond my present ken and of an intimacy that defies commiseration.

—Garret Keizer, author of *The World Pushes Back*

Crackling with desire and grief, *Walking Into Lightning* is an unforgettable collection. The poems are at once visually beautiful and viscerally sensual, laced together by the sinew of longing. They burn deep to cauterize the unfathomable loss of the beloved. I have long admired Ellen LaFlèche’s poetry, but the poems in this book are tough butterflies unfurling new and scorched wings from fiery cocoons, immolating everyone who witnesses their transformation. LaFlèche’s imagery is as unsentimental as it is brilliantly inventive. “I feel your soul detaching from your body, / a wrenching ache like tendons pulled slow from bone.” As she grapples with her husband’s illness and excruciating death, we, too, are forced to deal with the abyss of loss. If not for the immaculate craft of this fine poet, these courageous poems would be unbearable. As it is, they are benedictions of love that allow us to go on.

—Pamela Uschuk, author of *Blood Flower* and *Crazy Love*

About Ellen LaFlèche

Ellen LaFlèche is the author of three chapbooks: *Workers' Rites* (Providence Athenaeum, 2011), *Ovarian* (Dallas Poets Community Press, 2011), and *Beatrice* (Tiger's Eye Press, 2013). She has published in diverse journals and websites, including *Hunger Mountain*, *The Ledge*, *Many Mountains Moving*, *Mudfish*, *Harpur Palate*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Naugatuck River Review*.

She is a recipient of the Ruth Stone Poetry Prize, the Tor House Poetry Prize, the Joe Gouveia Outermost Poetry Prize, the Philbrick Poetry Award, New Millennium Writings Poetry Award, and the Poets on Parnassus Prize for poetry about the medical experience, among others.

She lives in Northampton, Massachusetts, and is an assistant judge of the North Street Book Prize at Winningwriters.com.

If you're reading a print version of this press release, and would like an interactive version, or an image of the book's cover, you can find them at

saddleroadpress.com/walking-into-lightning.html

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