

MOTHERNEST



Sandy
Longley

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Passager Publishes Book by Provincetown Poet

Passager Books announces the publication of *Mothernest* by Provincetown, Massachusetts writer Sandy Longley. The book is a collection of poems deeply rooted in nature and in the author's concerns about protecting it.

An Albany, New York native, Longley moved to Provincetown after a decades-long career as an associate professor of English in New York's SUNY system. Longley's poems have received awards and recognition from The Robert Frost Foundation, The Bridport Prize and Gregory O'Donoghue Prize.

Mothernest was runner-up in Passager's 2022 [Morgenthau Poetry Prize contest for a first book by a writer 70 or older](#). Morgenthau Prize judge David Keplinger praised "its confidence and concision, its translation of the world of bears and crows into a language that does not impose on animals our human assumptions and needs."

Cape Cod naturalist Dennis Minsky said, "She takes the observed world and makes it shimmer with meaning. 'Such a brutal, beautiful place is this world,' she writes. Who could disagree?"

Passager (Passenger + Passages = Passager) remains distinctive as a high-quality literary press dedicated to writers over age 50. Says editor Kendra Kopelke, “Our vision is to combat ageism and invisibility by demonstrating the creative capabilities of our older generations. And of equal importance, for writers to see themselves as people who can engage and inspire their community through their stories, poems and creative work. At Passager, we encourage writers and readers to find their creative place (and voice) in the world.”

Mothernest is available from www.passagerbooks.com.

In its 30 years of publishing 75 journal issues, 32 books, author videos, and more recently a weekly podcast, Passager has shared the work of more than 2,000 writers, many in their 80s and 90s and beyond. With *Mothernest*, Passager continues its tradition of bringing the compelling writing and insight of older writers to the public.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



photo by Rob Longley

Sandy Longley lives in Provincetown, Massachusetts near her family, and is inspired daily by the rich, natural surroundings. She is a regular contributor to WCAI's Poetry Sunday program. *Mothernest* was runner-up in Passager's Henry Morgenthau III 2022 First Book Poetry Prize. Her poems have received awards from The Robert Frost Foundation in 2020 and 2022, and were shortlisted for The Bridport Prize and Gregory O'Donoghue Prize. She is a former Associate Professor of English at SUNY/Columbia-Greene Community College. Finishing Line Press published her first chapbook, *Navigating the Waters*, in 2016.

PRAISE

‘Let me be your river’ writes this poet of the natural world, and indeed that is what Sandy Longley achieves in *Mothernest*, a collection of quiet push and pull and sustained flow from its opening poem to the last, which is a study of an opossum living out her life ‘in this in-between place.’ A river is an in-between place, literally cutting through and creating liminality; a migration is an in-between journey. The poet feels so at home in these locations of temporary solace and traveling. I remember that these points of transience are my own home environment, too, my natural habitat, and the perfect backdrop for poetry. I know what I love about this book: its confidence and concision, its translation of the world of bears and crows into a language that does not impose on animals our human assumptions and needs. This is a poet in the tradition of Mary Oliver, Elizabeth Bishop and Seamus Heaney, whose poems are at home with borders and frontiers between danger and softness, life and death. ‘I am a Fainting goat,’ Longley writes, ‘knocked on my back, one eye open to the sky . . . Touch my curved horns – tender.’”

David Keplinger

author of *The World to Come*

“The gathering of poems in Longley’s collection embodies the beauty of nature, journeys of literature and history with elements of self-reflection. Gentle and subtle each poem’s telling travels through various migrations and gives the reader a smooth voice to follow into the depths of daily life.”

Phyllis Carito

author of *The Stability of Trees in the Winds of Grief*

“Sandy Longley’s very heart is revealed in her new collection of poems, *Mothernest*: large and expansive, capable of breaking, but also her mind – wise, imaginative, and creative. She takes the observed world and makes it shimmer with meaning. ‘Such a brutal, beautiful place is this world,’ she writes. Who could disagree? And ‘when the heart is comfortless’ we can turn to Sandy Longley and in fact to our inner selves, keepers of Poetry.”

Dennis Minsky

Naturalist and contributor to WCAI’s *A Cape Cod Notebook* and *The Provincetown Independent*

“AMOR MUNDI”

for Annie

Dear box turtle, I understand your road crossings –
I, too, move with purpose and deliberation
I, too, am often hard-shelled.

There are berries and grasses to forage, eggs
to lay, clutches to disguise in the underbrush,
predators to flee, ponds to clean.

And yet here we are.
Let me help you cross the road. Like
a Valkyrie in black leggings and silver

I will stop Route 6 traffic with a raised arm and
a fierce stare. I will pick you up (never by the tail)
and bring you to the direction you are going.

Who would renounce jubilation? asked Rilke,
especially for the lowly. By that I mean I dreamed
of resting with you by water's edge, both of us

emerging from our colorful carapaces, stretching
our turtle necks up into the soft morning light –
a chorus of bullfrogs bassooning their brave songs.

ORDERING INFORMATION

Mothernest by Sandy Longley

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