



## What the Body Knows

*Jean Janzen*

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*What the Body Knows* is a collection of poems that seeks the language of what lies deeply within the body, to listen and to name the longings, losses, and gains of a long life.

"In bygone centuries a mirror was held to the lips of a passing loved one to check for the delicate mist of life. These poems are like that mirror. To their reflecting surface clings a distillation of clarity and wisdom, precious to those who look into the glass." --*Rhoda Janzen, Author, Mennonite in a Little Black Dress and Mennonite Meets Mr. Right*

"Jean Janzen addresses her treasured topics--desire, mystery, language, family and heritage, music, embodied spirituality--with confidence and grace. 'Write it, the hunger and the song,' says one poem. And she does, brilliantly. Janzen's vision has never been clearer; her words have never confessed more truth. This book took over 80 years to write, and its final, passionate message is 'mercy,' a resounding 'Yes.'" --*Julia Spicher Kasdorf, Author, Poetry in America*

"In 'Winter Child' Jean Janzen remembers 'a kind of ecstasy' from a wintry afternoon, her 'small figure falling again and again / to make a host of angels in my own backyard.' Steeped as they are in loss and grief, these poems may hardly seem angelic--except in their glimmering music, their wintry knowledge, and their generous wisdom. *What the Body Knows* is a book to savor and to treasure." --*Jeff Gundy, Author of Songs from an Empty Cage and Somewhere Near Defiance*

**The Author:** Jean Janzen, a poet living in Fresno, California, is the author of six previous collections of poetry who has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and other awards. A graduate of Fresno Pacific University and California State University of Fresno, she has taught at Fresno Pacific and Eastern Mennonite University.

*What the Body Knows* is volume 12 in the **DreamSeeker Poetry Series** released by Cascadia Publishing House LLC and follows volume 11, *Momentary Stay*, Barbara Esch Shisler.

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