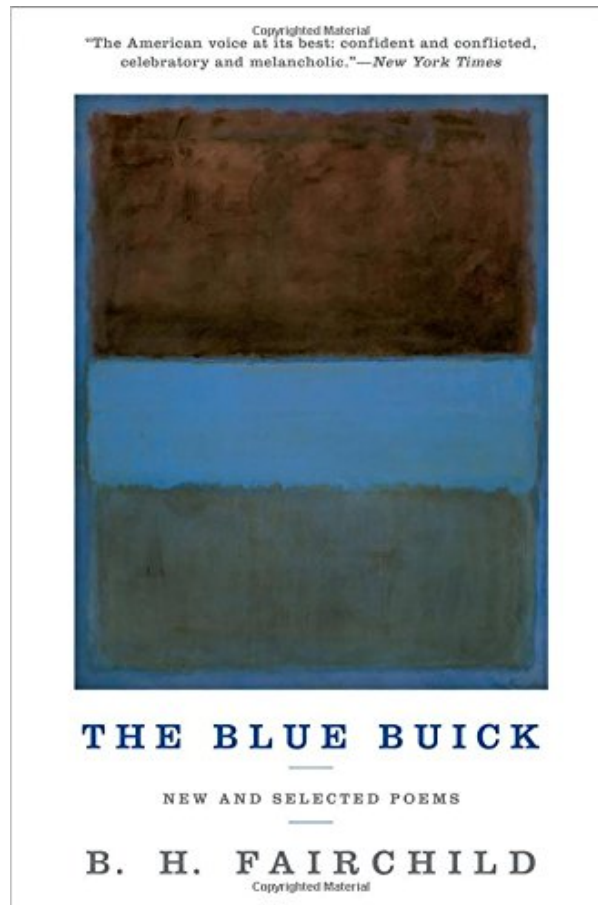


THE BLUE BUICK: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS BY B. H. FAIRCHILD



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"The American voice at its best: confident and conflicted,
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Review

“I have no trouble ranking [Fairchild] with the best poets of his generation.” (Hudson Review)

“One of the most readable poets of our time. . . This is poetry of the extraordinary ordinary, nonpareil.” (Ray Olson - Booklist, starred review)

“Acause of celebration. . . . Noisy, visually arresting poems, full of occult weather systems, the barbed nostalgia of a man born into one world, now inhabiting another . . . [Fairchild] has spent a lifetime singing the body electric of small, dying towns, day-laborers and the beers at the end of their day, the pressure it puts on the man who must remember it all.” (John Freeman - Boston Globe)

About the Author

B. H. Fairchild, the author of several acclaimed poetry collections and a recipient of Guggenheim and NEA fellowships, has been a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the William Carlos Williams Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Bobbitt National Prize. He teaches in the creative writing PhD program at the University of North Texas.

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"[B. H. Fairchild] is the American voice at its best: confident and conflicted, celebratory and melancholic." New York Times

Gathering works from five of B. H. Fairchild's previous volumes stretching over thirty years, and adding twenty-six brilliant new poems, *The Blue Buick* showcases the career of a poet who represents "the American voice at its best: confident and conflicted, celebratory and melancholic" (New York Times).

Fairchild's poetry covers a wide range, both geographically and intellectually, though it finds its center in the rural Midwest: in oilfields and dying small towns, in taverns, baseball fields, one-screen movie theaters, and skies "vast, mysterious, and bored." Ultimately, its cultural scope—where Mozart stands beside Patsy Cline, with Grunewald, Gödel, and Rothko only a subway ride from the Hollywood films of the 1950s—transcends region and decade to explore the relationship of memory to the imagination and the mysteries of time and being. And finally there is the character of Roy Eldridge Garcia, a machinist/poet/philosopher who sees in the landscape and silence of the high plains the held breath of the earth, "as if we haven't quite begun to exist. That coming into being still going on."

From the machine work elevated to high art that is the subject of *The Arrival of the Future* (1985) to the despairing dreamers of *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest* (2002) to the panoramic, voice-driven structure of *Usher* (2009), Fairchild's work, "meaty, maximalist, driven by narrative, stakes out an American mythos" (David Ulin, Los Angeles Times).

From "The Blue Buick:"

A boy standing on a rig deck looks across the plains.
A woman walks from a trailer to watch the setting sun.
A man stands beside a lathe, lighting a cigar.
Imagined or remembered, a girl in Normandy
Sings across a sea, that something may remain.

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“A cause of celebration. . . . Noisy, visually arresting poems, full of occult weather systems, the barbed nostalgia of a man born into one world, now inhabiting another . . . [Fairchild] has spent a lifetime singing the body electric of small, dying towns, day-laborers and the beers at the end of their day, the pressure it puts on the man who must remember it all.” (John Freeman - Boston Globe)

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Fairchild is America's best living poet and is in the running for best ...

By H. C. Palmer

Fairchild is America's best living poet and is in the running for best American poet ever. His new and collected is worthy of our highest literary awards. His command of language is reminiscent of Anthony Hecht. His intellect, wit, and big dose of common sense makes reading his poems a great and unforgettable pleasure.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

B. H. Fairchild and Billy Collins: Poetry ...

By J. R. PHILLIPS

B. H. Fairchild and Billy Collins:

Poetry Returns to the Masses.

Say what you will, story-telling poets have always struck a responsive and sympathetic chord to the fickle and transitory mind-set of a media-saturated society. Collins uses self-deprecating humor and universal aphorisms that seem indisputable to lure even the most anti-literary, anti-intellectual Lilliputians among us. Fairchild recounts such a detailed string of memorable events and their life-affirming implications that any of us raised in a working class world of post-war Midwest origins can only nod our heads and say, “Yes, I remember those times, those movies, those simple, yet-complex life styles under constant assault from a rapidly changing world of A Bombs, television tubes and planned obsolescence.”

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant Collection

By Wendy Herbert

I loved B. H. Fairchild's previous poetry books, among them *The Art of the Lathe*, *Early Occult Memory Systems of the Lower Midwest*, and *Usher* and so looked forward with anticipation to reading *The Blue Buick, New and Selected Poems*. I can tell you, right off the bat, that you will be glad you bought this book.

Having sold our California house, my husband and I were on a cross-country trip which ended at the doorstep of our daughters who were both living in New York. As soon as we arrived, I settled in to read *The Blue Buick* from cover to cover, exploring earlier poems I was less familiar with. Halfway through, I started to slow down because I realized that I didn't want the book to end.

It goes without saying that Fairchild is the quintessential poet of the rural Midwest; its people and their lives rendered with tenderness and humor. His poetry has always and continues to wed intellectual and emotional complexity to a deep sense of awe. Of it, David Ulin of the LA Times has said the work, "transcends region and decade to explore the relationship of memory to the imagination and the mysteries of time and being."

And so, knee-deep in my own personal dislocation, I wanted that first reading of the Blue Buick to become a long, long journey. I wanted to stay in that world as long as I possibly could. Reading it made me feel a lot like I did when I read Melville's Moby Dick. Both great works of American literature. Both written by great American writers.

See all 12 customer reviews...

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