

CONTEMPLATIVE MAN

Brock Guthrie. Sibling Rivalry Press, 2014. 90pp. \$13.46.

In an age where the worst crime a white male poet can commit is to write poetry about being white and male, *Contemplative Man* bravely asks its audience to approach the book on its own terms—the language and content much like that of a Mark Halliday piece or a Raymond Carver poem. Guthrie folds the quotidian into origami cranes, the wisdom in each poem scribbled on the extremities of each wing, and the speaker, an extension of the poet himself, critiques hyper-masculinity by simultaneously embracing it. The result: a book of poems containing the most tender, magical “bro-ments,” enveloped in the hyperbolic uncertainty of a generation of men who wear their emotions on their rolled-up sleeves.

—Peter Tival