

Expanded Bio

William Fargason is the author of *Love Song to the Demon-Possessed Pigs of Gadara* (University of Iowa Press, 2020), winner of the 2019 Iowa Poetry Prize and the 2020 Florida Book Award in Poetry (Gold Medal). His poetry has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *New England Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Narrative*, and elsewhere. His nonfiction has appeared in *Brevity*, *The Offing*, and elsewhere. He earned an MFA in poetry from the University of Maryland and a PhD in poetry from Florida State University. He is a poetry editor at *Split Lip Magazine*. He lives with himself in Sparks Glencoe, Maryland.

Interview links

Interview by Joshua Lavender in *Diode*:

http://diodepoetry.com/lavender_joshua/

Interview by Youssef Helmi in *Green Linden Press*:

<https://www.greenlindenpress.com/interviews-and-reviews#/william-fargason/>

Author Commentary

“The Pear” is a response poem to Shane McCrae’s poem “The Rug,” which is where the epigraph comes from. I wanted the dialogue of those two poems to be like Robert Lowell’s poem “Skunk Hour,” written in response to Elizabeth Bishop’s “The Armadillo.” McCrae’s poem was one that dealt with finding a staple in a rug that cuts you. I wanted my poem to be about my relationship to pain, too. The core of my poem is about my complicated relationship to pain—both physically through my chronic illness and psychologically through my mental illness. The only way I could talk about that pain was through something concrete, which here, is a pear.

Personal Homepage

www.williamfargason.com

Additional Links

“Elegy with Teeth,” in *Blackbird*:

<https://blackbird.vcu.edu/v21n1/poetry/fargason-w/elegy-page.shtml>

“Ode to My Pectus Excavatum,” in *Blackbird*:

<https://blackbird.vcu.edu/v21n1/poetry/fargason-w/ode-page.shtml>

“Ode to Klonopin,” in *The Cortland Review*;
<https://www.cortlandreview.com/issue-87/william-fargason/>