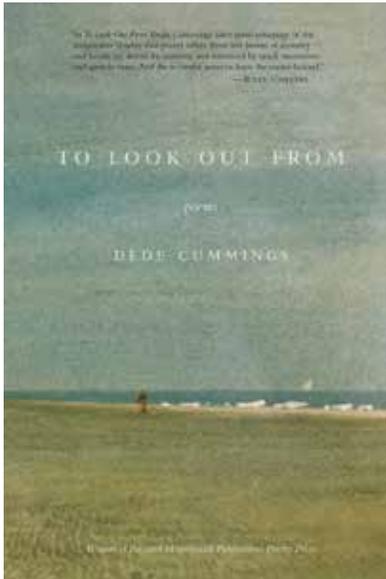




*Ensuring the mainstream isn't the only stream.*



***To Look Out From* | First Edition Hardcover | poetry**

Pub date: APRIL 11, 2017

“In *To Look Out From*, Dede Cummings takes good advantage of the imaginative fluidity that poetry offers. Even her poems of memory and family are driven by curiosity and enlivened by quick maneuvers and spritely turns. And she is careful never to leave the reader behind.” — **Billy Collins**

Dede Cummings is the winner of the 4th annual [Homebound Publications Poetry Prize](#) for her collection *To Look Out From*, which will be published by Homebound Publications in April 2017. The collection is drawn from poems that span 30 years in a narrative of place explored through craft and form: from growing up with four sisters, to alibis for secrets, family, memory, leaving home, and a mother’s grief; through poems that take the reader deep into forests and unexpected treasures found in nature.

According to acclaimed poet Clarence Major, “Dede Cummings’ poems in *To Look Out From* are breathtakingly vivid. Deeply felt, they often chronicle the relationship between self and the natural world, between self and others. These are New England poems that transcend New England. They are well-crafted testaments, often pastoral, to the cycles of life. At times they are elegiac and bittersweet, yet attentive in their hopefulness and trust in the Great Wonderments and mysteries. At times gracefully discursive and always brilliantly paced, they are poems given to recovery and renewal. This is a book I will read over and over.”



**Dede Cummings** is a writer, literary agent/publisher and commentator for Vermont Public Radio. At Middlebury College, she was the recipient of the Mary Dunning Thwing Award, attended the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference as an undergraduate fellow, and studied with Hayden Carruth at the Bennington Writers’ Workshop. In 2013, she returned as a poetry contributor to the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference to work on her poetry collection begun in 1978. Her poetry has been published in *Mademoiselle*, *The Lake*, *Inquire*, *Vending Machine Press*, *Kentucky Review*, *Connotation Press*, *Mom Egg Review*, and *Bloodroot Literary Magazine*. She was a Discover/The Nation poetry semi-finalist and was awarded a writer’s

grant and a partial fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center. Her poetry collection entitled *To Look Out From* was the winner of the 2016 Homebound Publications Poetry Prize. Dede lives in Vermont (spending time at her family’s summer home in southern Rhode Island) where she designs books and runs [Green Writers Press](#). (Photo by Howard Romero.)

*To Look Out From*, poems by Dede Cummings | PUB DATE: April 11, 2017  
6 x 9; Hardcover with Flyleaf | 92 Pages | ISBN 978-1-938846-82-3; \$24.95  
6 x 9; Trade Paperback | 92 Pages | ISBN 978-1-938846-83-0; \$16.95

<http://homeboundpublications.com> Review copies available upon request.

Available for preorder direct from the publisher, Ingram, and in the spring via Midpoint Trade Books.

Homebound Publications ~ *Ensuring the mainstream isn't the only stream.*

## Advance Praise for *To Look Out From*:

"Dede Cummings' poetry collection *To Look Out From* celebrates the profound truths of love in all its forms: love of family and friends, romantic love, love of nature and the world, of language and of the divine spark that allows us, if we choose, to love one another more than ourselves. The poems in *To Look Out From* are as wise and kind as they are lovely. Written with great emotional force, *To Look Out From* is at once deeply personal and universal in its revelations of the power of love to make our lives and the places where we live meaningful."

—Howard Frank Mosher, author of *Stranger in the Kingdom*

"Achingly beautiful, reflective and tender. The poems in this collection glimmer with courage, love, pain, and truth. Like a luminous seashell found on a cloudy morning's beach walk, *To Look Out From* is a treasure."

—Megan Buchanan, author of *Clothesline Religion*

"Pity the poet who writes of salt ponds and claw marks on beech trees without the requisite natural-world familiarity. Better: pity her reader. There is no doubt that Dede Cummings's hiking boots have suffered the ravages of Vermont blizzards and the indignities of losing their way in muddy New England woodstocks. Her technically beautiful, dreamy poems span many years of memory and favor the cavorting of family life. The founder of Green Writers Press and a book designer, Cummings attended Middlebury College and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference."

—Foreword Reviews

### Headscarves

I arise early morning in Vermont  
Start the fire  
And get the kitchen ready.

Without knowing,  
I wrap my scarf around my head  
And gently around my neck.

I feel contained.  
A warmth around me, halo-like, and soothing.  
My mind wanders, as I clean mechanically,

To women  
Around the world  
Wearing their own headscarves.

"When the voice of elegy steps forward here it often ends up celebrating experiences pared down to simple pleasure by the blade of grief. The comfort of a hot cheek on an icy windowpane, the revelation of the underside of leaves, obituaries that offer chronicles of untold happiness—such transformative surprises lead Dede Cummings to discover in the world 'my prism.' What an authentic, moving, and beautifully cadenced collection this is."

—John Elder, Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies at Middlebury College,  
author of *Reading the Mountains of Home* and *Picking Up the Flute*

"Dede Cummings' luminous debut is a love letter to New England, exploring the intimacies of family and landscape. Speaking as mother, daughter, sister, and lover, her poems distill emotional truths as they move elegantly from grief to rebirth. Always attuned to our planet's fate, *To Look Out From* burns with compassionate intelligence and a profound sense of place."

—Diana Whitney, author of *Wanting It*

## Events

*To Look Out From, poems* by Dede Cummings

PUB DATE: April 11, 2017

BOOK EVENTS

April 1, 2017	9-4:15 PM	New Hampshire Writers Day featured reader/panelist
April 1, 2017	7:00 PM	Northshire Bookstore, Manchester, Vermont
April 7, 2017:	7:30 PM	Reading/Launch at Next Stage Arts Project in Putney, Vermont
April 11, 2017	6:00 PM	Bear Pond Books, Montpelier, Vermont—Featured reader at PoemCity
April 15, 2017:	4-6:00 PM	Poet's House, 10 River Terrace, New York City
April 20, 2017	6:30 PM	Phoenix Books, Rutland, Vermont
April 21, 2017	6:00 PM	Savoy Bookshop, 10 Canal Street, Westerly, Rhode Island
April, 2017	TBD	<i>Nature Poetry</i> , featured workshop leader at PoemCity, Montpelier, Vermont
April, 2017	TBD	The Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, Vermont

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