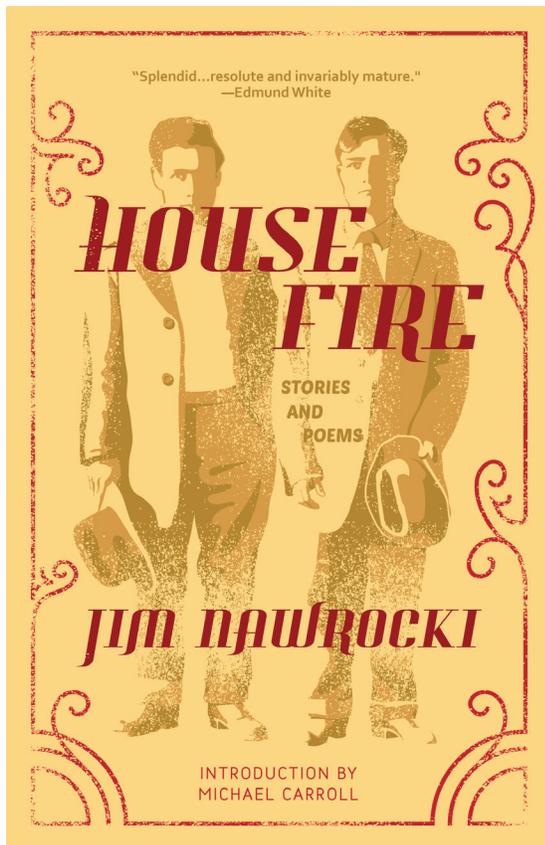


HOUSE FIRE

stories and poems by Jim Nawrocki

“...splendid...resolute and invariably mature.”
—EDMUND WHITE



From an automaton navigating a forbidden relationship with a man in post-apocalyptic Australia to a reimagining of a friendship between Franklin Pierce and Nathaniel Hawthorne, Nawrocki's short fiction ranges from futuristic to historical and everywhere in between. *House Fire*, the winner of the 2009 James White Poetry Prize, judged by Mark Doty—a book that was never published—blazes with poems that are erudite and precise, even when confronting the messiness of love, grief, and mortality.

The work of the late Jim Nawrocki, who died of cancer in 2018, is poignant, rangy, and genre-bending, and *House Fire* is a debut collection from a literary voice gone far too soon.

“An unsung genius in life, Jim Nawrocki's poems and stories left me wanting much more and knowing my hunger wouldn't be satisfied. Alternating between the domestic, the postapocalyptic, and the cosmic, *House Fire* marks not only the beginning, but also the end, of Jim's vision. This ironic circularity perfectly encapsulates his erotics. If we are lucky, more posthumous work will grace us with his peculiar wisdom.”

—MICHAEL WALSH, editor of *Queer Nature* and author of *Creep Love*

About the Author: Jim Nawrocki's work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Kyoto Journal*, *Nimrod*, *Arroyo Literary Review*, *The Gay & Lesbian Review Worldwide*, *Chelsea Station*, *poetrydaily.com*, as well as many other journals. It has also been anthologized in *The Place That Inhabits Us: Poems of the San Francisco Bay Watershed* (Sixteen Rivers Press, 2010) and *Art & Understanding: Literature from the First Twenty Years of A&U* (Black Lawrence Press, 2014). The poems in this book, collected under the title *House Fire*, won the 2009 James White Poetry Prize, judged by Mark Doty. He passed away from cancer in 2018.

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