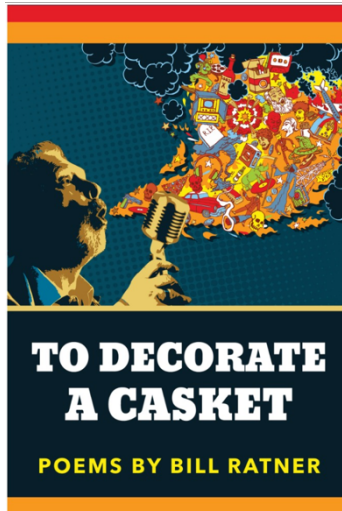


PRESS RELEASE

Finishing Line Press
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Finishing Line Press is pleased to announce the publication of:
To Decorate a Casket - Poems by Bill Ratner



"I look for hidden meanings in incidental moments,' poet Bill Ratner says in "Try My Luck," one of many intriguing poems in *To Decorate A Casket*. These highly original poems stir things up—a wild concoction of exploration, confession, and surreal fantasy, each topped with a soupçon of wry wit. Whether mourning the early demise of his beloved parents and older brother or riffing on being the one left behind to come of age on his own, Ratner's poems find life's humor and sweetness. They kick off their shoes and dance with Death."

— Alexis Rhone Fancher, *Junkie Wife*, Poetry editor of *Cultural Daily*

Synopsis: *To Decorate a Casket* is Bill Ratner's first poetry collection. His poems address issues of grief, loss, search for identity, and gender politics, written in a lyrical, surrealistic, ironic style. Jack Grapes, Chatwin Press author of *Last of the Outsiders* and Founding Editor of literary journal *ONTHEBUS* writes: "Like a good storyteller, Ratner sidles up to you, whispers the opening of a tale, then brings in the big guns of poetry to make it all work. These poems are masterful, touching, evocative, and Ratner himself is a master-builder at work who shapes words out of airy nothing and commands them to speak."

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Bill Ratner's work is published in *Best Small Fictions 2021*–Sonder Press, chapbook: *To Decorate a Casket*–Finishing Line Press, full-length collection: *Fear of Fish*–Alien Buddha Press, Chiron Review, Baltimore Review, FeminineCollective.com, Rattle Magazine's Rattlecast, *Sh!t Men Say to Me*–Moon Tide Press, Missouri Review Audio, and other journals. Bill is a Poets & Writers Readings and Workshops Grant recipient, 9-time winner of The Moth Story Slam, 2-time winner of *Best of The Hollywood Fringe Extension Award for Solo Performance*. His readings are featured on National Public Radio's *Good Food*, *The Business*, and KCRW's *Strangers*. He is a certified volunteer grief counsellor and earns his living as a voice actor. He is the author of *Parenting for the Digital Age: The Truth About Media's Effect on Children* from Familius Books, and he teaches poetry and storytelling for the Los Angeles School District and voiceover for the Screen Actors Guild Foundation.

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