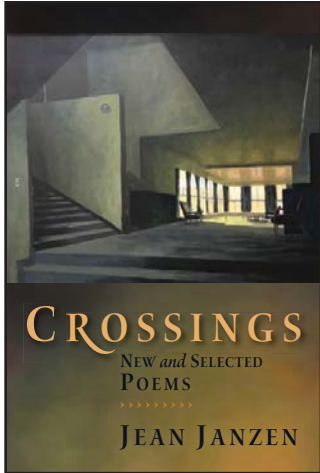


 **CROSSINGS**

New and Selected Poems

Jean Janzen

DreamSeeker Poetry Series 21



Available: April 2026
Tentative Pages: 218
Format: 5.5 x 8.5 trade paper
Prices: \$25.95 US/Can.
ISBN 13: 978-1-68027-027-3

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Summary: Janzen's luminous poetry has long been shining its way into top magazines and eight books; *Crossings* gathers poems from those books and a generous set of new poems. Aware of the darkness of this world, Janzen's poems face it fearlessly yet pursue the consolations and joys that faith, love, desire and language offer. In her *Crossings* title poem, she asks, "The sea so wide and my small boat of words. / What are the lines between the lines?" Each poem hints at answers.

"Janzen is one of the writers who first awakened me to poetry. It's a great gift to have these poems gathered in a single book. She writes with a grace that only partly disguises a profound complexity, an almost classical music of longing and sounding, praise and sorrow. Her lines are gorgeous, and so moving, right through the poems she's writing now, in her nineties."

—Jesse Nathan, Eggtooth

Praise for Jean Janzen's Poetry

"With some (not necessarily all) good poets, one can open their pages at random, read a line or stanza detached from its context, yet be rewarded by incontestable poetry. Janzen is such a poet."

—Denise Levertov, *This Great Unknowing: Last Poems*

"Janzen's poetry speaks of love as . . . a radical wholeness that radiates outward and does not fence-off boundaries between what is sacred and what profane, what belongs to body and what to spirit."

—Peter Everwine, *Pulling the Invisible but Heavy Cart: Last Poems*

"Janzen transforms the world before our eyes."

—Luci Shaw, *Angels Everywhere*

"Janzen writes our songs. As you read these poems, you realize they are prayers 'smoldering in your chest'; if you contemplate them too long, they will lean you low, so low you will be able to 'put your ear / against the belly of the earth, to hear / it rumble, to hear it sigh.'"

—Rudy Wiebe, *Come Back*

Market: In the final *Crossings* poem, Janzen tells us "the secret of the story / is love, that even as we sleep, /its tides carry us in a wild safety." *Crossings* is for all drawn to that secret.

Shelving: Poetry—of body and soul, hunger, childhood, aging; Anabaptist-Mennonite literature. BISAC: Poetry; RTM: 640 Poetry.

The Author

Jean Janzen, a poet living in Fresno, California, is the author of seven previous collections of poetry who has received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and other awards. A graduate of Fresno Pacific University and California State University of Fresno, she has taught at Fresno Pacific and Eastern Mennonite University.

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