

JOHN MANN

Winner of The National Poetry Review Book Prize

CHARLIE
BAKER

ABLE



John Mann is an archivist of the human heart and an accountant both of the natural world and popular culture. His precisely observed juxtapositioning of these in *Able, Baker, Charlie* never fails to surprise, never fails to move us. As Rilke advised readers to change our lives, so does Mann often build toward the insistent, as in “Hand over your dearest songs”—advice which the poet himself has surely heeded in this marvelous collection.

—David Stevenson

John Mann’s poems approach you not like the lantern that you plod towards through darkness, but like fireflies appearing at different points within the range of your vision that engage your every sense, enough for you to make sense of the journey you take through his unsettling, elliptical world. They seem to be written in outlying areas where the usual compasses and watches will not serve, but they will so thoroughly claim you that you may find that you have suspended your breathing.

—George Ellenbogen

We have fooled ourselves into thinking that pain is simple—it is emptiness, a chasm. But John Mann’s poetry shows loss with all of its lurid filigree, its barbed-wire curlicues. Mann probes this “atmosphere of void covered with frost” throughout *Able, Baker, Charlie*, and he manages to capture how we leave this void changed. There is no mitigating agent. Even love is defined as “the heart outside the body.” Beauty is something that leaks from the eyes, and the sky “vomits its stars.” *Able, Baker, Charlie* is a beautiful, painful read—more acute because of its dead-eye accuracy.

—Karen Craig, *Mid-American Review*

Able, Baker, Charlie is available now from the publisher, at Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble.com, Powells.com, and other booksellers.

For a schedule of related events, visit
johnmannpoems.com