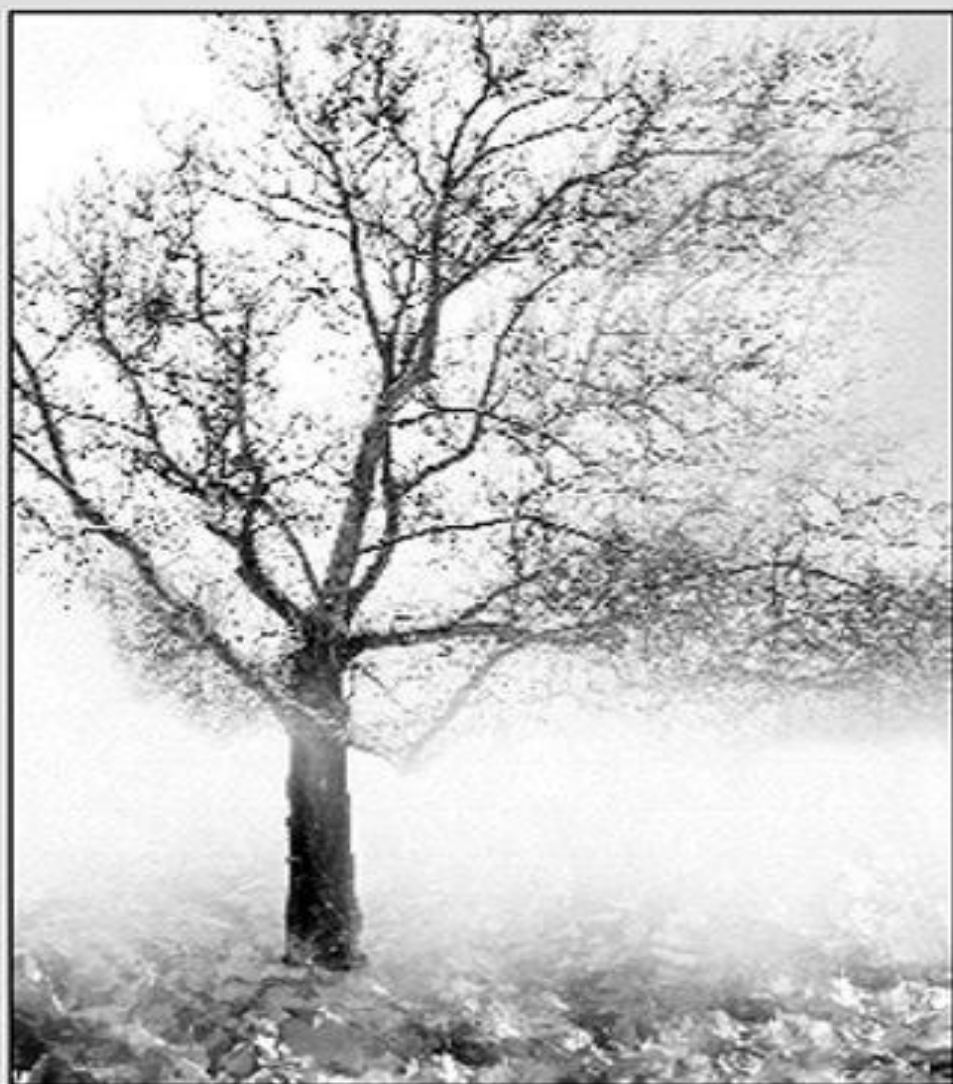


Dave Malone



Under the Sycamore

"Dave Malone's poems are like elegant origami sculptures that are small enough to hold in the hand but speak to the intricate intelligence of the artist who designs them."

—Jo Van Arkel

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~~So often in these brief poems I found myself holding fast on the disappearing edge of each moment before it passed, the moments themselves accumulating like lucid, vibrant reminders of how and why one's heart is kept alive in the world. Under the Sycamore is an honest, engaging, even enriching collection, the poems 'rendered-down' quality accentuating with clarity that wonderfully complex dance we call longing and love.~~

—Jack Driscoll

Dave Malone's poems are like elegant origami sculptures that are small enough to hold in the hand but speak to the intricate intelligence of the artist who designs them.

—Jo Van Arkel

In the tradition of haiku and Ghalib's ghazals, this poet reaches toward cherry trees.

—David Ray

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank these editors for publishing my work:

“Looking at the stars,” “Don’t think I don’t know,” and “I tasted your hair” were first published *dew online*.

“I kissed you in a snowstorm” was published in *Every Day Poems*, the creative enterprise (a poem a day in your inbox) from TS Poetry Press.

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Breathing in the stars,
I have one thought
where I'm holding you
until they disappear.



That moonlight on your face
through the open window
is actually my breath.



Don't think I don't know

how your hands feel.

I rested at the table

where you sat this afternoon.



Who can know
that expansive mind
of yours.? I'll try,
standing at the edge
of the Grand Canyon.



You kissed me
under the sycamore.
All the leaves fell
though it was spring.



I loved you
in a thunderstorm
only to find out
the forecast was clear.



I tasted your hair
as if dinner
proved not enough.



I heard your voice
in my piano
so I kept playing
until daybreak.



Your lips, richly red.

I'm willing to pay

a ransom

to spend the night

with them.



These endless dark nights
the moon hollowed out
mark dark days to follow.



These phone lines

tease us

into thinking we're close.



Without my whiskey
you'd seem so much more dull.
Thank you farmers
of corn.



Listening to rock and roll,
I dance on your footsteps
chalked out
on my living room floor.



Our romance was so

fat

I stopped eating meat.



In the ninth century Japan
they loved,
they loved until
bonsai trees sprouted.



I ate soup
at the abbey today
past everyone's fill—
until all the monks
caught your face in their bowls.



I've heard your shirt
leave you,
the rustling
of new rose petals.



I've pictured you
naked
like how painters
see flowers before
they open up.



The sweetness of your voice
is like honey in the spring.

Gold flowering
distancing winter.

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