



ON THE LEVEL: Poems on Living with Multiple Sclerosis I Bryan R. Monte

With humor and insight, *On the Level: Poems on Living with Multiple Sclerosis*, cuts to the reality of living with disability. Fear and courage make their appearance, along with family trauma, invasive examinations, constantly moving medical targets, and accessibility barriers. Yet here, Bryan R. Monte proves to us that life and joy push through and beyond limitations both self- and other-imposed.

PRAISE

Gifted narrative poet Bryan R. Monte turns medical anthropologist in this transfixing exploration of his four-decade brawl with multiple sclerosis, meeting his disease's "tongues of fire" with wit, erudition and insight. *On the Level* is not only a deft exploration of the author's life as patient, but also a daring foray into the nature of illness, the limits of the medical profession and the boundless potential of the human psyche to transcend its physical shell. In the spirit of Sarah Manguso and Porochista Khakpour, Monte transforms his own body into a literary landscape. An arresting debut. — Jacob M. Appel, MD and author of *Who Says You're Dead?*

The extraordinary thing about this collection is its positivity. Not in a facile sense—these poems are unsparingly real, bringing readers as close as I dare imagine to the experience of MS in their own bodies as well as in the mind. But the grace of the writing, its tenderness and often humor, lifts us, as does its determination to look through sometimes harrowing details to wider perspectives, ones we can all use, simply being human, moving outwards and on. — Philip Gross, *Between the Islands* and *The Water Table* (T.S. Eliot Prize)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Bryan R. Monte is an anthropologist, lecturer, and writer. In 2021, he was shortlisted for both the Hippocrates Open Category Prize and the Gival Press Oscar Wilde Award. His poetry has appeared in *The Arlington Literary Journal*, *Friends Journal*, *Italian Americana*, *Kaleidoscope Magazine*, and *South Florida Poetry Journal*, and is anthologized in *Gathered: Contemporary Quaker Poets* (Sundress Press), *Voices from the Fierce Intangible World*, (SoFloPoJo Press), and *The Hippocrates Prize 2021 and 2022* anthologies

(The Hippocrates Press). He edits *Amsterdam Quarterly* and is a member of the Amsterdam (Netherlands) Friends Monthly Meeting, the Authors Guild, and the Communal Studies Association. He lives in the Netherlands with his partner and their dachshund.

ISBN: 978-1-939530-27-1
trade paper | 120 pp. | 6 x 9
US \$16.99 CAD \$23.00

ISBN: 978-1-939530-28-8
hardcover | 120 pp | 6 x 9
US \$25.99

POE000000 POETRY / General
POE005010 POETRY /
American - General

Publication date:
November 15, 2022

Download hi-res cover and author
photo on book page at
www.circlingrivers.com

BOOKSELLERS/LIBRARIES:
Available from Ingram

Author-signed copies available
direct from publishers

CIRCLING RIVERS

www.circlingrivers.com

804-368-6833

jeanh@circlingrivers.com