

My Hands Full of Light, by Gideon Young (Durham, N.C.: Backbone Press, 2021). 28 pages; 5" × 7". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-7363467-1-6. Price: \$10.00 from www.backbonepress.org

Debut collection from Young. He has organized the poems into a narrative in which the poems act as important markers of time. It is a powerful journey, and not dissimilar to the shifting emotional associations in a traditional seasonal progression. The first poems are of fatherhood, and the dreams all fathers have for their children; landscapes expand and choices are made; we watch what it means to be a black man in the South and the implications of this choice for his family; hints of violence; and the narrative ends with a second child. It is a slow and satisfying burn. *fatherhood— / weathered brown hands / shield a candle; tortoise shell— / the North Star / in my skin; father of two / my hands full / of light.* —pm