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# BOOK NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Stephen Cushman's Fifth Poetry Collection to be Published in October

*"Yes indeed, some days it helps to think of extinction," writes Stephen Cushman in his joyride of a jeremiad, **The Red List**. Baring everything from his soul down to his cholesterol levels, this stargazer, Biblical exegete, and campus flaneur composes a twenty-first-century self-portrait in a funhouse mirror. 'Maybe, could it be, hopelessness is ecstasy?' asks Cushman. Count me a believer. **The Red List** gives us hope for that endangered literary creature, the American poem."—Srikanth Reddy, author of *Voyager**

**Baton Rouge**—The "red list" of **Stephen Cushman's** new volume of poetry is the endangered species register, and the book begins and ends with the bald eagle, a bird that bounded back from the verge of extinction. ***The Red List*** marks the inevitability of such changes, from danger to safety, from certainty to uncertainty, from joy to sadness and back again. In a single poem that advances through wordplay and association, Cushman meditates on subjects as vast as the earth's fragile ecosystem and as small as the poet's own deflated fantasy of self-importance: "There aren't any jobs for more Jeremiahs."

Simultaneously teasing the present and eulogizing what has been lost, Cushman speaks like a Shakespearean jester, freely and foolishly, but with penetrating insight.

**Stephen Cushman** is the author of the poetry collections *Riffraff*, *Cussing Lesson*, and *Blue Pajamas* and the nonfiction book *Bloody Promenade: Reflections on a Civil War Battle*. He is Robert C. Taylor Professor of English at the University of Virginia.

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