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Elegy for an Unknown Baby

LSU Press to Publish Matthew Thorburn's Dear Almost in September 2016

Baton Rouge—*Dear Almost*, to be published by LSU Press in September, is a book-length poem addressed to an unborn child lost in miscarriage. Beginning with the hope and promise of springtime, poet Matthew Thorburn traces the course of a year with sections set in each of the four seasons. Part book of days, part meditative prayer, part travelogue, the poem details a would-be father's wanderings through the figurative landscapes of memory and imagination as well as the literal landscapes of the Bronx, Shanghai, suburban New Jersey, and the Japanese island of Miyajima.

As the speaker navigates his days, he attempts to show his unborn daughter “what life is like / here where you ought to be / with us, but aren't.” His experiences recall other deaths and uncover the different ways we remember and forget. Grief forces him to consider a question he never imagined asking: how do you mourn for someone you loved but never truly knew, never met or saw? In candid, meditative verse *Dear Almost* seeks to resolve this painful question, honoring the memory of a child who both was and wasn't there.

Matthew Thorburn is the author of six collections of poetry, including *This Time Tomorrow* and *Every Possible Blue*. He lives in New York City, where he works in corporate communications.

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Poetry

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