



# Lures

## Poems

### ADAM VINES

“Adam Vines is a rare find—an avid fisherman, he’s a poet with a penchant for sonic texture, orchestrating music from a workingman’s palette of plumb lines and trowels, lures and bait twitching on the trotline. . . . By turns elegant and salt-of-the-earth, gorgeously elevated and shit-talking vernacular, here is a collection wrought by a man who knows exactly how to use the tools of both the hand and mind to make words sing.”—**Nickole Brown**

“Masterful but always charming, the poems of Adam Vines’s *Lures* are poems on the water—with a landscape of loss and bounty and an art of patience and discovery. Vines gives us love poems and elegies attuned to a natural world that refuses to offer up the old consolations, but instead shows a vision—shimmering and alive—just beneath the surface.”—**Richie Hofmann**

“Reading the work of Adam Vines I am reminded of Robert Frost’s admonition about the need of being versed in country things. To be so versed is to possess a knowledge that comes from experience. Vines passes along his knowledge and experience, from fishing to parenthood to the art of the elegy, in poetry of a high order.”—**Mark Jarman**

Written almost exclusively in traditional, modified, and nonce forms, the poems in *Lures* renegotiate grief, trauma, southern masculinities, and fatherhood with unflinching resolve. This new collection by Adam Vines draws much of its subject matter and imagery from fishing, revealing how close observations of species, spawning cycles, predation and feeding patterns, underwater topographies, water clarity, and lure choice reflect larger themes of what it means to be lured through memories of those who have passed and those who remain present.

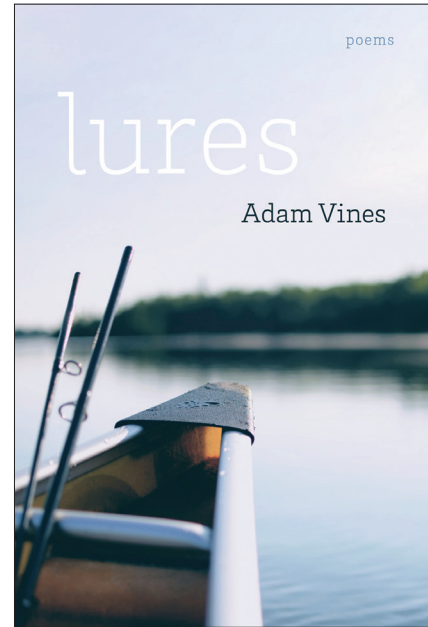
With *Lures*, Vines proposes that by reconstructing the stories from our past, we gain a greater understanding of our cultural identities and inheritances from those who made an impact on our lives.

**ADAM VINES** is associate professor of English and director of creative writing at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He is the author of three collections of poetry, including *Out of Speech*, and coauthor of two collections. His work has appeared in *Poetry*, the *Kenyon Review*, and the *Southern Review*, among other journals.

and *on* to the dirt road’s end  
where my kin crawled out of the river,  
where I would have cut and split  
a seasoned white oak for your visit  
and piled rocks for a pit closer to the slough,

so when we would have run  
and re-livered that trotline by the skinny moon,  
we’d have fire close when we skulled  
back to the bank. Then over a skillet  
of skeeting yellow cat filets,

I would have mentioned the rendition  
still stuck in my head even today—  
Fitzgerald and Armstrong’s—  
and the absurd snow, and you would have gone on  
about *you*, an Alabama privet switch,  
driving through Colorado on winter days.  
—from “River Elegy”



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