

ABSTRACT

THE CONDITION OF MUSIC

This book contains what the poet Philip Dow calls “necessary poems”-- that is, they are necessary because their stories need to be told, and poems because poetry is the form in which they can best be told.

Whether narrative, lyric, or elegiac, these poems begin and end in imagery from the natural world. The images are ones I have seen through the acute lenses of curiosity, attention and imagination. This way of seeing has set me apart from other people all my life. A kind of loneliness, then, might explain spans of words that may capture a reader’s errant curiosity, so that for the time it takes to read these poems, the reader will see what I see.

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May 2006