For Immediate Release

Contact Jeanetta Mish, Publisher

Mongrel Empire Press

**Mongrel Empire Press Announces *Flatline Horizon,* a poetry collection by Don Stinson**

Norman, OK 9/22/18—Mongrel Empire Press, an Eclectic Publishing House specializing in regional and uncommon literary works, is happy to announce the publication of *Flatline Horizon*, a poetry collection by Don Stinson.

In his first collection, Don Stinson collects poems written over several years and in various places and states of mind, but united in their focus on the horizon, that boundary line between yesterday and today, today and tomorrow, between where we are and the imaginary place we’d like to be. The poems reflect both personal moods and musings and the frightening yet fascinating changes in our nation and its citizens. Ultimately they revolve around one of the oldest existential themes—how do we deal with the reality and finality of death?

Quraysh Ali Lansana, author of *The Walmart Republic,* writes, “In *Flatline Horizon*, Don Stinson’s autobiographical meditations on death in various forms—aging, homogenous thought, homeplace, intolerance and despair—implicate and immerse the reader in the deep sigh of paradox and often painful ironies of Middle America, prairie dust and memory. The confluence of the personal and political, informed by the history and events of speaker and journey, offer taut musicality that surprises more than measures. The manner in which these poems see sing deftly subtle tones of quiet depth, secure insecurity, muted hope, and tenuous love. These are words of a rooted journeyman with wise, wide eyes.”

Brandon Hobson, author of *Where the Dead Sit Talking,* praises *Flatline Horizon* as *“*a beautiful book that confronts such difficult issues as love, death, loss, and prayer—all with such strange and wonderful imagery and precision of language. There is nothing flat here: beyond the horizon we see Stinson's gift emerge into a powerful reckoning.”

Paul Bowers, author of Occasional Hymns describes *Flatline Horizon* as “beautifully incantatory lyrics [that] explore life’s emotional horizons: gladness and suffering, waking and dreaming, hope and despair, and above all, love and loss. In this insightful collection, Stinson shows himself to be a master of poetic forms and a keen observer of the human heart.

American Book Award winner Rilla Askew writes of Stinson’s collection that “There’s such gorgeous scope in these poems. People and place, history and heroics, sorrow and love and the poet’s compassionate sensibility. I emerged from them feeling as if I know the poet, myself, his place, my place, all the more richly. Dip in anywhere, you’ll be rewarded with his power in language, rhythm, insight. Read Don Stinson’s *Flatline Horizon* front to back, as I did, and you’ll come away illuminated, wounded, and glad.”

Don Stinson studied creative writing at Northeastern State University and Oklahoma State University and has taught writing and literature for over 20 years at Northern Oklahoma College, where, with colleagues, he organizes the annual Chikaskia Literary Festival. His poems have been published by many regional and national literary magazines and websites, and he has read his work at festivals and conferences around the U. S. He and his wife Pamela live in Tonkawa but travel widely.

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**About Mongrel Empire Press**

Mongrel Empire Press was established in 2007 with a mission to publish well-written, thoughtfully-considered works across generic and disciplinary boundaries. The Press actively identifies and promotes Oklahoma and regional writers while at the same time making room for outside the region works that, because of their mixed generic, disciplinary, and philosophical approaches, cannot find a home at other presses that have a more narrowly defined mission.

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