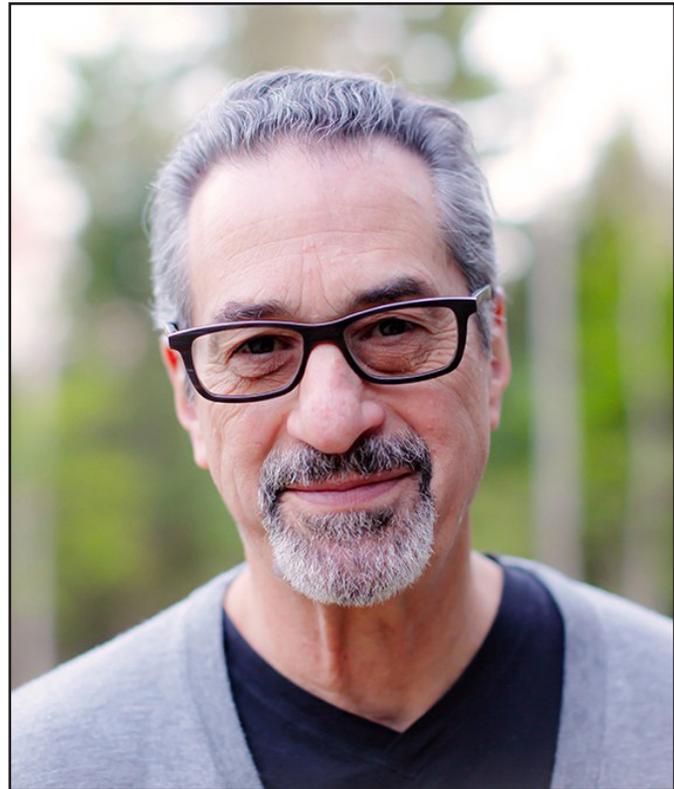
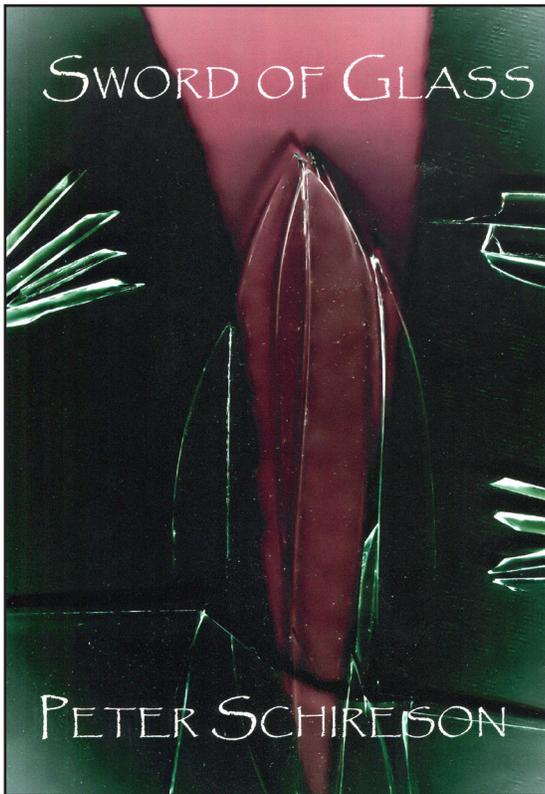


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sword of Glass / Peter Schireson

Publisher: Broadstone Books | Publication Date: June 1, 2019 | ISBN: 978-1-937968-55-7 |
| Poetry | \$16.50 | Paperback, 80 pgs | 6 x 9.25 |
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*Somebody scrape it out, write it down,
all of it, nothing brushed aside...*



Peter Schireson follows his own instruction in his new collection of poems, *Sword of Glass*, leaving nothing out, encompassing matters cosmic and comic, revealing them to be sides of the same coinage of life. He finds evidence of “Divinity” in “that curvy green plastic thing / in the hardware store” as readily as in orioles and apricots. The middle section of the book is devoted to a Bergman-esque “scenes from a marriage”, unflinchingly honest and poignant, from the first moment of wondering “what would happen” through the too-late realization “I was not as kind to her / as I should have been.” In the title poem, his father’s father appears as an absurd survivor (at one point hilariously disrupting a family wedding), tucking him into bed in childhood with warnings to go right to sleep, lest otherwise “in the morning, sunlight will cut you / like a sword of glass, and you’ll never again / be able to jump up and down...” but later revealing, on his deathbed, that “Life is sunlight held together by blood...” Such a simple recipe, and yet, as Schireson shows us repeatedly through these poems, it is of such basic things that we are made.

Praise for *Sword of Glass*

“I love Peter Schireson’s book of poems, *Sword of Glass*. These poems manage to seem finely wrought and improvised, madcap and solemn, down to earth and mystical, a perfect blend of Mel Brooks and Rumi. This is work to live with, brood about, and learn by heart. I love this book.”

—Alan Shapiro, author of *Life Pig & Reel to Reel*

“Here is the poet on the page as naturally as a man in the shower. He has brought the experience of a whole life with him....It is all here, the laughter, the tears, and the dream of the one great soul, rendered with exacting craft and tenderness. *Sword of Glass* is a marvelous book.”

—Rodney Jones, author of *Salvation Blues: One Hundred Poems, 1985–2005 & Elegy for the Southern Drawl*

“...these poems work on multiple levels—they are at once deeply personal, and contemporary, aware of the world around the speaker. The poems of this collection are both shattering and darkly humorous. Schireson hits all the notes in this textured, intelligent, deeply compelling collection.”

—Martha Rhodes, author of *The Thin Wall*

“Peter Schireson’s beautiful poems—full of wit, loyal to the potential for late-life erotics, drawn to stare the most terrible facts in the face—startle the reader into the awakesness, and even hilarity, that results when an essential strangeness is revealed inside the supposedly ordinary....”

—Patrick Donnelly, author of *Little-Known Operas*

“Peter Schireson is a poet of surprise, waving a hand, enlarging the frame to include a man combing his hair as he slips between the comb’s teeth....How does he do that? He might just be a magician.”

—Peter Coyote, author of *Sleeping Where I Fall*

About the Author

Peter Schireson began writing after a long career, first in education, then in business. He holds a Doctorate in Education from Harvard University and an MFA from the Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College. He is also an ordained Zen Buddhist priest and dharma lineage holder, having trained in both the U.S. and Japan. He lives in Palo Alto, California and New York City with his wife Grace, with whom he co-edited *Zen Bridge: The Zen Teachings of Keido Fukushima*.