

Blue Light Press Announces Publication of *The Short Fall From Grace*, Winner of the 2005 Blue Light Book Award

San Francisco, May 1, 2006—

Blue Light Press is pleased to announce the publication of *The Short Fall From Grace*, a collection of poetry by Stewart Florsheim. The book is the winner of the annual 2005 Blue Light Book Award. The collection includes poems about subjects that span the poet's life, from childhood to fatherhood. Many of the poems resonate with the theme of being the child of refugees from Hitler's Germany. Other poems take their cues from great paintings and other works of art.

Says Elizabeth Rosner, author of the best-selling novel, *The Speed of Light*, "There is a special resonance and poignancy in Stewart Florsheim's poems. Although they may speak softly and matter-of-factly about the world and about art itself, they manage with great subtlety to explore well below the surface of our lives. These are poems to handle with care, as they have been sharpened with the precise blade of truth."

Florsheim has been writing poetry for over 30 years. He has won numerous awards, and has been published in many periodicals and anthologies including *Unsettling America, An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry* (Viking Penguin, 1994). He is the editor of *Ghosts of the Holocaust* (Wayne State University Press, 1989), an anthology of poetry by children of Holocaust survivors. His poetry chapbook, *The Girl Eating Oysters*, was published by 2River in 2004.

Blue Light Press is a collective of poets and artists based in Iowa and San Francisco. The press was established in 1989 by poet Diane Frank, and has a backlist of over 30 poetry books. Florsheim is the third winner of the Blue Light Book Award. Previous winners were Ken McCullough and Alice Rogoff. Says Frank, "We like poems that are imagistic, emotionally honest, and contain a vision where the writer pushes through the imagery to a deeper level of insight. Stewart's poems are just like that. They show a man at his most vulnerable moments."

The Short Fall From Grace will be available around May 1 from local booksellers (via Ingram or Baker and Taylor) and also from online bookstores including 1st World Publishing (<http://www.1stworldpublishing.com/store/>), amazon, and barnes and noble. The poet was interviewed on the TV show "Mosaic" (channel 5, April 30, 2006) where he read from his book. Readings are planned throughout the Bay Area and in other locations.

For more information about the book and readings, see Florsheim's Web site (<http://www.stewartflorsheim.com>) or contact the poet at poetryman@pacbell.net.

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