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Pennsylvania poet's third volume is 'both intimate and discreet'

PITTSBURGH—Poet Julia Spicher Kasdorf once said in an interview that “nothing is a bad topic for a strong writer” . . . apparently not even garlic, a 1978 Chevy or cardio-kickboxing, all topics featured in her new collection *Poetry in America*.

Kasdorf, associate professor of English and Women's Studies at Pennsylvania State University, was born in Central Pennsylvania and raised in a suburb of Pittsburgh. *Poetry in America* includes several nods to life in Pittsburgh and other locales in Pennsylvania. Some of the other poems are inspired by Kasdorf's experiences as a writer, mother, and traveler.

Poet Eamon Grennan said, “I admire Julia Kasdorf's poems for their alert eye, attentive mind, vigilant heart, all fused into a single, sometimes painfully aware, vision of the world. Bristling with narrative surfaces, angular emotional interiors, humorous sympathies, her poems move in careful zigzags. Plain-spoken, both intimate and discreet, these poems take hold.”

Kasdorf is the author of two previous poetry collections: *Eve's Striptease* and *Sleeping Preacher*, which won the 1991 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize and the Great Lakes Colleges Award for New Writing in 1993. Kasdorf's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, and *Poetry*, as well as numerous anthologies, including the 2003 Pushcart collection.

She is also the author of *The Body and the Book: Writing from a Mennonite Life 1991-1999*, which won the Book of the Year Award from the Modern Language Association's Conference on Christianity and Literature, and *Fixing Tradition: Joseph W. Yoder, Amish American*.

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