

CL Bledsoe

Another Love Poem

I want to take your joy into
my cupped hands, drink it
like water, without taking
it away. What is there
to say about the city on a hill
that is your smile? It's something
I've never understood, never
felt, myself. But just because
I can't stand in the church with
the ones who smile with dead
eyes, doesn't mean I can't carve
the stone they ignore or appreciate
its glow from outside. Here's a secret
they don't know: there's already
penance enough in life; you don't
need to make your own.

Raised on a rice and catfish farm in eastern Arkansas, **CL Bledsoe** is the author of more than twenty books, including the poetry collections *Riceland*, *Trashcans in Love*, and his newest, *Grief Bacon*, as well as the *Necro-Files* novel series and the flash fiction collection *Ray's Sea World*. Bledsoe co-writes the humor blog *How to Even*, with Michael Gushue located here: <https://medium.com/@howtoeven> His own blog, *Not Another TV Dad*, is located here: <https://medium.com/@clbledsoe> He's been published in hundreds of journals, newspapers, and websites that you've probably never heard of. Bledsoe lives in northern Virginia with his daughter.