

Corey D. Cook

Meeting the Poet David Budbill in a Dream

I was surprised
to see the self-proclaimed
recluse on a sidewalk
in Cleveland, Ohio.

Wearing Levi's
and a white t-shirt.

Self-assured,
deftly maneuvering
through the crowds
he shunned
for Judevine Mountain.

I struggled to keep up,
saw him duck
into a café,
settle at the counter.

Worked up the nerve
to approach him,
introduce myself.

He shook my hand
and gestured
to the stool
beside him.

We spoke
of burgeoning gardens
and black flies.

He asked if I would
join him for tea.

I accepted the invitation,
and promptly woke up,
my bedroom curtains steeped

in early morning light,
an empty cup
on the nightstand.

Corey D. Cook's fifth collection of poems, *The Weight of Shadows*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2019 and is available for purchase online. His work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *The Aureorean*, *Boston Literary Magazine*, *Freshwater*, *The Henniker Review*, *The Mountain Troubadour*, and *Viscaria Magazine*. Corey works at a hospital in New Hampshire and lives in Vermont.