

Death Songs – Ten Years Later

Author Commentary

To think that it has been almost 10 years (just saying that feels strange on my tongue to speak), since the release of this collection of poems from a very dark, bleak and lonely time of my life, is nothing short of extraordinary to believe has happened. It is still moving to look back and see all the photos of friends and family who purchased the first ever printed edition or I gifted to them. It was a dream that became a reality because I started to ask the right questions to some other fellow small/medium artists in the PNW.

Typing the original draft was a strange time for sure, scrounging through journals, attempting to locate scraps of pieces I knew that I had stored (somewhere) that had lines I knew that I had to write about at some point or another. I must confess that a large portion of what originally was meant to be within the volume was scrapped and now lost to time forever. I also had a lot of doubts about “is this too much? is this too little? What is that perfect middle ground of the right amount?”

But slowly I pieced it together, song by song, line by line, little piece of my own death by little piece. In the original print there are marks in the footer section that some people asked me about originally when it published. I would always laugh saying it was a publishing issue or something else. Unfortunately that was all wrong and I must confess the real truth to those markings.

Each mark was a specific indicator to serve as a codex for someone whom I was romantically entwined with, but they wanted a hand in creative control of the project and demanded that I show which one was about them and which about myself and others. It was an uncomfortable reality to deal with and allow to happen, something I have learned to never allow again.

an artist creates the art they want to create, not the art others want them to make unless it is contracted work. I regret having to censor my own work for the feelings of someone else, but I can never change those beginnings. What you hold now is not the actual Death Songs I wanted to publish, it is a false one.

As of now, 2025, I do not have plans to rework the book either with any new materials other than the ten year anniversary edition which includes bonus content. But maybe one day I'll revisit the idea of creating the original vision of what Death Songs should have been.