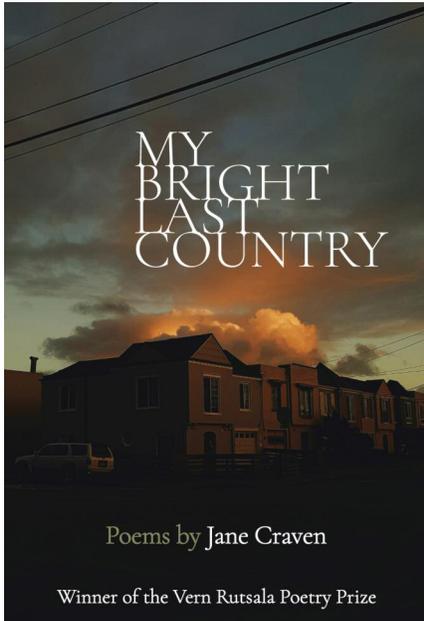


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***My Bright Last Country,*  
Poems by Jane Craven**

Published by Cloudbank Books, *My Bright Last Country* was awarded the Vern Rutsala Book Prize in 2020. A distinguished Oregon poet, Rutsala authored more than a dozen poetry books, including *The Moment's Equation*, a finalist for the National Book Award in 2003.

***Praise for My Bright Last Country***

"Jane Craven's gaze is astonishing. Lines shine with luminous observations precise and inventive details that refresh our perceptions. Such looking is, of course, another way of thinking. Her mind steps into the past, into paintings, into relationships, into an 'earthbound self.' Her exquisite poems refuse explanation or resolution. Instead, she makes visible the intimacy of attentiveness. *My Bright Last Country* is a powerful and memorable debut."

—Eduardo C. Corral

"Jane Craven's eye and mind are in top form in this book of the vanishing world. Craven's imagination knows no bounds, dances through line after line effortlessly. Look at the opening of her poem "Bluebird": "On the path behind my house the bamboo / grove is bamboozled by snow bent / to the ground in a St. Louis arc iced thick / as grandma's layer cake . . ." Language + image = distance traveled—from grove to St. Louis, to grandma's cake. And she's just getting started. Meditations on art, artists, love, marriage, place, dream, the seam that both tears and binds, all through the fierce eyes of a woman awake "at the center of the world."

—Dorianne Laux

"*My Bright Last Country* demonstrates a mastery of image and language from start to finish, and I kept returning to these poems for their powerful and haunting truths. The subtlety and compassion with which Jane Craven approaches issues ranging from environmental and planetary degradation to personal loss—and the way she interweaves these issues into a single coherent narrative—had a strong impact on me as a reader. There's also a deep awareness of the world and a refusal to dwell only on the self, in spite of the personal pain present in the poems. They are constantly reaching outward, making connections between the self and others, the self and the world, in surprising and beautiful ways. This is a book I want to read again and again."

—Holly Karapetkova

**About Jane Craven**

Jane Craven grew up in North Carolina and holds an MFA from North Carolina State University. Her poem "Bluebird" won the Cloudbank Books prize in 2019. She won first prize in The MacGuffin's 2019 Poet Hunt Contest for her poem "The Sketchbooks of Hiroshige." Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Columbia Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, *The Southern Humanities Review*, and other journals.

**Order Information**

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ISBN 978-0-9824867-9-5, 80 pages, \$16 trade paperback

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