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The Wind Blows Through the Doors of My Heart by Deborah Digges

[The Wind Blows Through the Doors of My Heart](#) PoemsWritten by [Deborah Digges](#)Hardcover, 72 pages | Knopf | Poetry - Single Author | **\$25.00** | 978-0-307-26846-4 (0-307-26846-2)

This breathtaking collection of poems by Deborah Digges, published posthumously, brings us rich stories of family life, nature's bounty, love, and loss-the overflowing of a heart burdened by grief and moved by beauty.

When Deborah Digges died in the spring of 2009, at the age of fifty-nine, she left this gathering of poems that returns to and expands the creative terrain we recognize as hers. Here are poems that bring to life her rural Missouri childhood in a family with ten children ("Oh what a wedding train / of vagabonds we were who fell asleep just where we lay"); the love between men and women as well as the devastation of widowhood ("love's house she goes dancing her grief-stricken dance / for his unpacked suitcases, . . . / . . . / his closets of clothes where I crouch like a thief"); and the moods of nature, which schooled her ("A tree will take you in, flush riot of needles light burst, the white pine / grown through sycamore"). Throughout, touching all subjects, either implicitly or explicitly, is the call to poetry itself.

The final work from one of our finest poets, *The Wind Blows Through the Doors of My Heart* is a uniquely intimate collection, a sustaining pleasure that will stand to remind us of Digges's gift in decades to come.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307268464>

The Stardust Lounge by Deborah Digges

[The Stardust Lounge](#) Stories from a Boy's Adolescence **Written by Deborah Digges** eBook | Anchor | Biography & Autobiography - Personal Memoirs | **\$13.95** | 978-0-307-49130-5 (0-307-49130-7)

At the age of twelve, Deborah Digges's son Stephen was running in gangs, stealing cars, and bringing home guns. This is the story of the adolescence that followed, of a boy growing up quickly and aggressively, with unrestrainable energy and a flair for risky and outrageous behavior. It is his story, as told by his mother, who is intent on pulling together a family that can get her son through these years alive, not just undamaged but the better for them.

In beautiful, vibrant prose, devoid of self-pity, anger, or blame, Deborah describes her struggle to understand and protect her son as his behavior escalates beyond her control. Even in the midst of the most harrowing experiences, Stephen's intelligence and sensitivity shine through: in an essay he writes about his older brother, in his photography, in his incisive explanations for his unruly activities, in his impulse to take care of those in worse shape than he is in. And as Stephen's misadventures take him into territory; emotional territory, but also actual neighborhoods Deborah has never encountered before, she tags along behind (sometimes literally, trailing him under cover of night) and teaches herself to understand how and why he acts, thinks, feels the way he does.

Eventually, mother and son begin to rebuild their lives. A visit to a therapist who suggests they throw knives at a cardboard target proves surprisingly effective. Together, Deborah and Stephen take in a bizarre menagerie, including an unforgettable trio of dogs: Buster the epileptic bulldog; GQ, another bulldog, this one on Prozac; and Rufus, a basset hound who decides to raise a litter of motherless kittens. And, finally, Deborah and Stephen open their home to Trev, a friend of Stephen's abandoned by his family. Each new responsibility strengthens their unusual household into a real, if unconventional, family that can defend Stephen when he goes too far, that can pull him back him back in and help him redirect his energy.

At times touching, at times terrifying, this is a taut and fiercely engaging, uniquely insightful, and inspiring portrait of male adolescence in our complicated world.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307491305>

Trapeze by Deborah Digges

[Trapeze](#) Written by [Deborah Digges](#) eBook, 72 pages | Knopf | Poetry - Single Author | **\$15.00** | 978-0-307-54821-4 (0-307-54821-X)

These lush, rewarding reflections on a woman's passage into midlife are grounded in our intimacy with nature and mortality. Deborah Digges, now in her fifties, looks back in such poems as "Boat" to see younger mothers and their children, and ponders her own "brilliant, trivial unmooring." As she wanders from the garden to the barn and into the woods, she finds her moods mirrored in the calendar of the seasons, making lush music of the materials at hand and accepting the seismic changes in her life with an appreciation for the incidental scraps of beauty she chances upon.

Throughout these luminous poems-which touch movingly on the illness and loss of her husband-Digges marvels at the brio with which we fling ourselves daringly into the night:

See how the first dark takes the city in its arms
and carries it into what yesterday we called the future.

O, the dying are such acrobats.
Here you must take a boat from one day to the next,

or clutch the girders of the bridge, hand over hand.
But they are sailing like a pendulum between eternity and evening,

diving, recovering, balancing the air.

From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780307548214>

Trapeze by Deborah Digges

[Trapeze](#) Written by [Deborah Digges](#) Trade Paperback, 72 pages | Knopf | Poetry - Single Author | **\$15.00** | 978-0-375-71021-6 (0-375-71021-3)

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From the Hardcover edition.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375710216>

The Stardust Lounge by Deborah Digges

[The Stardust Lounge](#) Stories from a Boy's Adolescence Written by [Deborah Digges](#) Trade Paperback, 240 pages | Anchor | Biography & Autobiography - Personal Memoirs; Family & Relationships - Adolescence | **\$13.95** | 978-0-385-72093-9 (0-385-72093-9)

Stephen Digges is the kind of angry adolescent a lot of parents would have given up on. He is out of control by the time he is 13 -- running with gangs, stealing cars, fooling around with drugs and guns, and in general making his family's life hell. Confronted with his growing recklessness and defiance, his mother, the poet Deborah Digges, decides to try to accept Stephen on his own terms--a course that stuns her family and leads to the breakup of her second marriage. Digges "shadows" him on his late-night forays so that she can understand his world, welcomes his gang into their apartment, and tries to see life through his eyes. When she discovers that children who are devoted to animals have an easier time forming attachments to other people, she fills their home with a menagerie of ailing or abandoned pets. She also turns to an unconventional therapist who offers unusual - but helpful - treatment.

The Stardust Lounge isn't your usual story of rebellious adolescence. The power of Digges's memoir comes from her stubborn unwillingness to give up on Stephen. Even when things are roughest, Digges manages to see the intelligent, sensitive child behind the hostile behavior. However difficult the path she chooses, her story is ultimately a heartening one, and it's impossible not to root for this family as it rebuilds itself.

