

This is a remarkable debut collection, but do not mistake the word debut for beginner. These poems are honed and musical. Never sentimental, the poet balances loss and grief with wit, razor-sharp images, and that ineffable quality – heart. Full of vivid observations of everyday lives and the frailties of human nature, Madill writes of childhood and family, his memories rooted "in the wreckage of family photos". Gems of hard-won wisdom startle the reader and enliven the pages, "Every / sunbeam revealing even light / is made of dust."

Cynthia French lives and writes poems in Newburne, Nova Scotia.