



THE BOOK OF THE FLOATING WORLD

EXPANDED EDITION

JON THOMPSON

The poems in *The Book of the Floating World* are poems of increasing complexity. That is to say, for me, reading the book twice, three times, ten times, has layered its subject(s) further and further behind the sighting of the opaque lens, while simultaneously bringing more layers to the surface.

—Brandon Shamoda *Word For/Word: A Journal of New Writing* #8

The lyrics in this book reward slow and thoughtful rereadings. The photography and poetry are haunting.

—Marcus Slease, *Octopus Magazine* #4

In *The Book of the Floating World*, the poet imagines his way into the past, constructing his dead father's experience of occupation Japan, and at the same time reflecting eloquently on the fallibility of such an endeavor. With his only evidence a group of photographs taken by his father, Thompson moves beyond those particular images to summon up vivid fragments of scenes cradled in the narrator's subtle, intelligent consciousness. The poems are elegant, elegiac meditations on the nature of personal history and mortality. In the book as a whole, the continuous and arresting conjunctions of past and present give *The Book of the Floating World* a quality of timelessness.

—Angela Davis-Gardner, author of *Felice* and *Forms of Shelter*

Part moral memoir, part imagined life of the father, part imagined history, part solid history, this unusual combination of verbal and visual—of the then seen from the perspective of now—makes a rare and interesting book.

—Betty Adcock, author of *The Difficult Wheel* and *Intervale*

The Book of the Floating World

Also by Jon Thompson

Fiction, Crime and Empire

The Book of the Floating World

Jon Thompson

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For my father,
William J. Thompson

Time goes from present to past.

—Dogen

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xi</i>
Part I	3
Black Market	5
Absolution	7
Thresholds	9
Traffic	11
Writing History	13
On Permanence	15
Imperial Palace	17
Idolatry	19
The Names	21
At Shinjuku Station	23
Blossoms	25
Empire	27
The Drape of Silk	29
The Cranes	31
Faithfulness	33
At the Gate	35
Body/Art	37
Self-Portrait	43
Of Beauty	45
Honganji Temple	47
Honganji Temple II	49
Part II	51
1945	53
Under Water	55

Asaka	57
Working	59
A New Sky	61
Origin of Disaster	63
Double Exposure	65
The Emperor	67
The Death of Form	69
Wilderness	71
Marginalia	73
Mount Fuji	75
The Ox	77
In Play	79
Legacy	81
The Solid World Is Dissolving	83
Walls	85
Reliquary	87
Vestigial	89
Once	91
From the Ship, a Coastline	93
<i>Notes</i>	95
<i>Index of First Lines</i>	99
<i>About the Author</i>	101

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