The Blurring of Time Order Form

The Blurring of Time, by Ronald Moran (Clemson, SC: Clemson University Digital Press, 2007), pp. viii + 58. $15 paper.

The Blurring of Time is Ronald Moran's second poetry collection—after *Saying These Things*—to be published by Clemson Universty Digital Press. Drawing on memories of the past as well as incidents in his daily life, Moran's poetry in *The Blurring of Time* is by turns funny, whimsical, poignant, and philosophical.

Many of Moran's poems are characterized by a wry and sometimes fanciful humor. In one poem, when two salespeople from whom he has spectacularly failed to buy a car send him a card personally thanking him for his purchase, he begins to wonder if *he* is the one who is mistaken: "Did I buy it? Is it in the garage / waiting for me to remember it?" In another, his elaborate fantasies of death by mosquito-borne illness and the subsequent, mysterious fate of his soul (will he be reincarnated?) are instantly deflated by a single piece of advice: "Get bit. Try to live through it."

Other poems are deeply poignant. In one, he is surprised to find his father's face looking out at him from his reflection in glass; "No, I cannot come now, but later, later," he tells the reflection. A number of poems deal with the failing health of Moran's wife, Jane, and with their shared knowledge of hospitals and doctors' offices, of IV drips and medicinal regimens. Indeed, *The Blurring of Time*'s title poem is about doctors' waiting rooms, where a feeling of suspension prevails: "time, / the issue, is taking a break down / the corridor." In the examining room, though, "time opens up its hand, / cupping you in its palm, / like a small, imperfect flower."

Six of the poems in this collection were first published in *The South Carolina Review*. Ronald Moran served for many years as a member of *SCR*'s advisory board for poetry.

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