
Of Writing and Places in Between

Grant & Abigail Pearson

Life and Current Projects

by Grant and Abigail Pearson

We are now six months into 2016. It's crazy how fast time flies when you're busy. We've done a number of things over the last few months that we wanted to take a few minutes to share with you in a few short summaries.

Grant has finished his junior year of college, and is very excited to be finishing up his Journalism degree with the UO's Clark's Honors College next spring. As always he's been balancing what seems like almost too much: college, Ballroom dancing, writing, teaching, and taking care of his wife and kitties. He's not planning on giving any of it up any time soon however. He still loves every last one.

Abi has been working on small projects here and there, publishing two chapbooks of poetry and writing and editing a play. She continues to write on her blog and review books. This spring she was accepted into an internship with an online publishing company called Patchwork Press. Patchwork Press is an indie company dedicated to finding a balance between traditional and self-publishing. They are looking for a way to give authors the

Poetry Selection

by Abigail Pearson

I Love Us

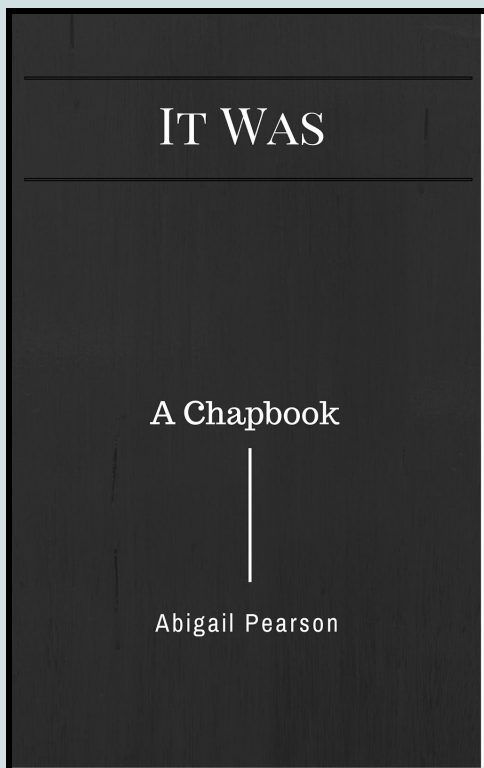
i like that our touches
have become commonplace
i like that sleeping next to you
is my new normal
i like it
that you've become part of who i am
i like the daily us
the days we just are
the way that holding me is forever
i like you
i like it that you like me
i love us.

freedoms and rights of self-publishing with the team and professionalism of traditional publishing.

Abi will primarily be working as an editor with up and coming authors. So far she has worked on a New Adult fiction book: reading over the chapters and then talking with the author on how to develop characters and how to make the main point clearer. It's exciting work, and she hopes to be able to continue working with Patchwork Press after the internship.

Chapbooks: *Mourning* and *The Bullet Train*

by [Grant](#) and [Abigail Pearson](#)



This Spring, Abigail found a new format for self-published literature called a Chapbook. This may not be a new term for some people, but I had never heard of this before, though the idea and format have been around since the 16th century. The Chapbook originated in Europe when mass paper publishing became popular. It is a short inexpensive booklet, and in recent years it has made a comeback in self-publishing.

Abigail and I have been advised by writing experts to look into this electronic format because it is inexpensive for everyone involved and can be easily marketed. To be high quality professional writers -- if the internet is to be believed -- we need to write for 10,000 hours or more. But writing is only half the battle. The other half is marketing, which is where publishing companies come in extremely handily. But when they are not available, authors are advised to publish frequently to make up for it. Since it's not easy to write a

quality novel every 3 to 12 months, especially when you're working part time and going to college full time, we've turned to poetry and short stories.

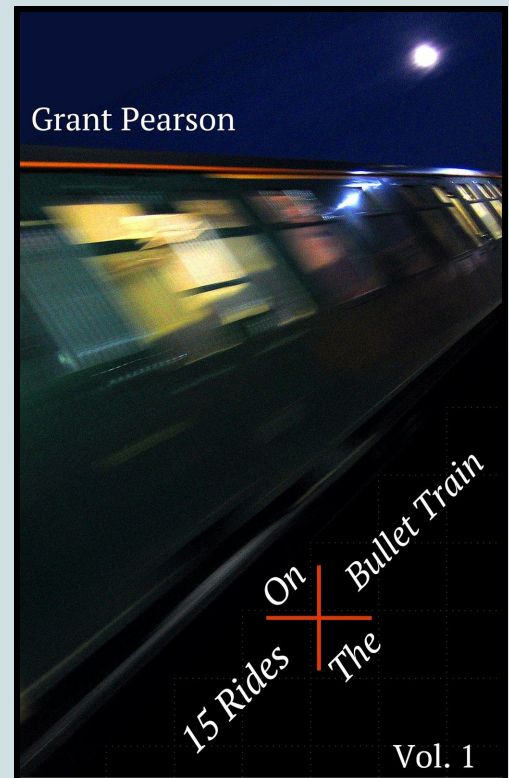
In the previous Newsletter we talked about the publication of our short story collection *What It All Means: The Red Collection*, an anthology of eight stories that each ranged between 5 and 12 pages long and which was published on Amazon.com. Now through the use of Chapbooks, we will be publishing poetry and flash fiction stories, which are generally each less than one page long.

Besides the reasons already listed above, this format will benefit our audience as well. We know it can be difficult to justify \$8.99 for a hundred pages of short stories that our supporters don't know when they'll get around to reading. These Chapbooks make it possible for our audience to support us with only \$0.50 to \$1.00 and still get something really nice with it.

So far Abigail has published a poetry chapbook called *It Was*. This seven page ebook is a fantastic sample of her style and themes, and is available online at <https://payhip.com/b/n4U2>.

I have published a chapbook of flash fiction stories called *15 Rides on the Bullet Train*. As the title suggests, there are fifteen stories about people and the situations that bring them together in the setting of a slightly futuristic train station. It too is available online at <http://payhip.com/b/S4dN>.

We are using the system "payhip" because it's a platform for short ebooks that gives the authors 90% of the profits, unlike Amazon.com which ends up only giving about 60-80%. Let us know what you think. We always love encouragement.



Townshend's Eugene Teahouse Review

by [Grant Pearson](#) originally for a Journalism Reporting Class

One hundred varieties of tea sit on one wall, while teapots and mugs of all shapes and sizes fill another. Modern floral paintings decorate the brown walls that make this cafe feel warm, cozy, and inviting. Townshend's Eugene Teahouse is the perfect place for a cup of tea, a conversation with a friend, and an afternoon of people watching.

Situated in downtown Eugene on the corner of Willamette and Broadway, the teahouse attracts a fair amount of attention and is open even until 10:00pm, after the majority of other shops on the blocks have been retired for the evening. The atmosphere is very casual and seems to attract people likewise. The majority of the visitors wear jeans, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and hoodies. A man, who looks to be in his mid thirties and wears a t-shirt, jeans, baseball cap, and a stocky red beard, serves the drinks to the customers who sit on couches whose coloring and patterns were likely popular in the 70s. Between the couches, the antique-looking wooden chairs, and the coffee tables where the customers set their drinks, this cafe distinguishes itself as a place to sit back, relax, and talk.

In comparison to the people at Starbucks, the people here act more at ease. In the teahouse, neither the servers nor the visitors rush around in a hurry or wait impatiently for their orders. They simply seem to have more time. In Townshend's – like in Starbucks – the seats are mostly all taken. However at Townshend's the line is generally much shorter, and the customers seem perfectly fine with the time it takes for the tea to brew to perfection. In Starbucks there always seems to be more businessmen and women with a healthy mix of college students. Starbucks is very modern – as is Townshend's – but the former has a slightly more upper-class feel. The teahouse is different. The people don't act quite as concerned with the high speed rush of deadlines and to-do lists.

In Townshend's, customers sit at their tables with just as many books as computers. They order 32 ounce teapots for nearly the same price as a sugar filled coffee from Starbucks, and they pour it into their small porcelain tea cups as part of the atmosphere. They order bubble teas and Chai lattes and Kombucha. The male to female ratio does not seem any different from Starbucks, though the people at Townshend's seem to be more artistically inclined with more dreads, piercings, and tattoos. And they come, as one customer put it, because “Townshend's has more of a homey feeling, and Starbucks doesn't have bubble teas.”

In other words, Starbucks is a good place to pick up a coffee on the way to the mall, but Townshend's is for those who want to feel like they're sitting with their friends in someone's kitchen enjoying any kind of tea imaginable.

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