

# SILVER 思 · 未 阑 LINES

Selected Poems by Fred Wei

魏嘉 著

中山大学出版社



# SILVER LINES

思·未蘭

Selected Poems by Fred Wei

魏嘉 著

中山大学出版社

· 广州 ·

版权所有 翻印必究

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

思·未阑 = Silver Lines: 英文/ 魏嘉著. —广州: 中山大学出版社, 2013. 12

ISBN 978 - 7 - 306 - 04742 - 7

I. ①思… II. ①魏… III. ①诗集—中国—当代—英文  
IV. ①I227

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2013) 第 279354 号

---

出 版 人: 徐 劲

策划编辑: 施兰娟

责任编辑: 施兰娟

封面设计: 林绵华

责任校对: 熊锡源

责任技编: 黄少伟

出版发行: 中山大学出版社

电 话: 编辑部电话 (020) 84111996, 84113349, 84111997, 84110779

发行部电话 (020) 84111998, 84111160, 84111160

地 址: 广州市新港西路 135 号

邮 编: 510275 传 真: (020) 84036565

网 址: <http://www.zsup.com.cn> E-mail: [zdcbs@mail.sysu.edu.cn](mailto:zdcbs@mail.sysu.edu.cn)

印 刷 者: 虎彩印艺股份有限公司

规 格: 880mm × 1230mm 1/32 9 印张 200 千字

版次印次: 2013 年 12 月第 1 版 2013 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

定 价: 28.00 元

---

如发现本书因印装质量影响阅读, 请与出版社发行部联系调换

## Preface

Since I wrote my first English poem in late 2001, it's been more than ten years of intermittent poetry writing, resulting in just under 500 English poems that recorded my thoughts and feelings during that period of time. The 280 poems in this collection are mostly selected from the output of the most recent two years. For easier access, the book consists of three parts: Images, Thoughts, and Sentiments.

"Images" includes scenes of nature and mental visions, describing the tangible and the imagined. "Thoughts" focuses on thinking about life and the world. "Sentiments" is marked by personal feelings and emotions. It's obvious that the three parts stand not in total isolation from each other since images could symbolize thoughts and sentiments, while thoughts and sentiments could be embodied by images.

As for the poems themselves, exposure to poets of a romantic persuasion, such as Percy Shelley and John Keats, left a deep impression on my teenage sensitive heart. Naturally I wrote about pensive yearnings and unrequited love for the first four or five years after I embarked on the road of English poetry writing. This is evident in the Sentiments part. Getting older I began to break free from the mold of self-pity, expanding my horizons to include memories, the beauty of nature, and meditations on life



when I resumed writing after a long hiatus about two years ago.

Metaphor runs through many of my poems, imparting qualities of people or animals to inanimate things. The average length of a poem in this collection is 20 lines or so, in an attempt to pack a punch without hurting the integrity of a poem. Haiku, as an Oriental poetry form popular in the West that epitomizes economy with words and is inspired by natural scenery, appeals to me particularly, and some of my attempts at writing it are included in the Images part.

Regarding subjects and images, I wrote about things without border: relatively universal happenings people in all parts of the world can relate to, such as rain, snow, wind, and clouds. For someone who has never lived abroad, this is an inevitable approach, and I hope its benefit in terms of access to a wider readership, together with the desired effect of simple writing, could endear this book to non-native speakers at an intermediary or above level of English reading.

Throughout this book, words that may leave one with a heavy heart do exist, but only because I hope the therapeutic effects I felt writing them could somehow work on the reader, for confronting the pain could hopefully change one's perception of it and empower one to fight against it with more conviction. More poems in this collection, however, follow a different vein, attempting to highlight the subtle beauty in life or nature that may be easily overlooked, extol the wonder of love, and praise the strength of hope and will. That's why this book is called

*Silver Lines.*

To see one's work on the shelf of a book store repays immensely their author's willing toil, but no author in the right frame of mind could claim all the credit for the creative process. Hence I'd like to thank my parents for their love and patience, and those who've encouraged or helped me along the way, especially Pan Chongkun, Pei Yuhua, Robert Cloud, and James William Bruner, for adding even more fuel to my fire.

# Contents

## *Images*

|   |
|---|
| The Racehorses / 3                      |
| Seconds, Minutes and Hours Float... / 4 |
| The Flowers / 5                         |
| Midnight Rain / 5                       |
| Pebbles / 6                             |
| On a Cloudburst / 7                     |
| Wind Turbines on the Coast / 8          |
| The Night Devoured... / 8               |
| Night Cat / 9                           |
| Rain and Dream / 9                      |
| Orpheus in the Underpass / 10           |
| Bed by the Window / 11                  |
| Children of the Sun / 12                |
| The Clouds / 12                         |
| Rain Slaying / 13                       |
| A Pond in the Woods / 14                |
| Foghorn / 14                            |
| Midnight Fisherman / 15                 |

Speedboats on the Waterway / 16  
The Ginkgo Tree / 17  
Trees / 18  
Chimney Smoke / 19  
Fly on the Wall / 19  
On an Early Autumn Afternoon / 20  
Wetland in Beijing Zoo on a Dreary Late  
Autumn Day / 21  
On Early Autumn / 23  
Wildfire / 24  
On Late Autumn / 25  
The Zoo in Winter / 26  
Subway on New Year's Eve / 26  
A Light Snow at Night / 27  
Butterflies and Clouds / 28  
Eye Surgery Room on New Year's Eve / 29  
Winter River / 30  
A Glass Tumbler on the Window Sill / 31  
A Windy Winter Night / 31  
The Snowman / 32  
Frost on the Window / 33  
A Walk on a Spring Morning / 34  
The Potion of Spring / 34  
The Anchorite / 35  
An Indigo Night / 37



|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| The Dawn /                       | 38 |
| The Sun on a Foggy Day /         | 39 |
| Clouds over the Sea /            | 40 |
| A Swimming Pool under the Moon / | 40 |
| Pathway in a Rainforest /        | 41 |
| The Volcano /                    | 42 |
| Zephyr /                         | 44 |
| The Bus Stop /                   | 45 |
| Beachcraft /                     | 45 |
| A Water Bird Lowered... /        | 46 |
| A Puddle /                       | 47 |
| The Breakwater /                 | 48 |
| A Summer Night /                 | 49 |
| The Cloud Dweller /              | 50 |
| Cloud Continents /               | 51 |
| Rain in Saipan /                 | 52 |
| The Storm /                      | 53 |
| Autumn of Silence /              | 55 |
| Moonrise /                       | 56 |
| Lighting and Thunder /           | 57 |
| Night after Snow /               | 57 |
| Night in the City /              | 58 |
| A Gray Bird in Winter /          | 59 |
| Trees in Winter /                | 60 |
| Winter Morning /                 | 61 |

A Pavilion / 62  
 Winter Dusk / 63  
 Before Dawn / 64  
 Winter Fog / 66  
 Magpies / 67  
 On a Foggy Dusk / 67  
 A Light Snow / 69  
 Snow in the Sun / 70  
 A Walk in the Snow / 71  
 Fountain and Mountain / 72  
 A Limpid Night / 73  
 Night in the Countryside / 74  
 The Blue Village / 75  
 A Distant Highway / 77  
 The Helicopter / 78  
 A Bright Spring Morning / 78  
 An Overcast Morning in Late Spring / 79  
 A Sunny Late Spring Morning / 80  
 Raindrops on Leaves / 81  
 Late Afternoon in Early Summer / 82  
 Bird Chirps after Rain / 83  
 Bird on the Eave / 84  
 Sitting on a Bench / 85  
 On a Cool Early Summer Night / 85  
 The Breeze Would Dry... / 86

The Pineapple / 87  
 The Herd of Clouds / 87  
 Plump and Dainty Raindrops Fall... / 88  
 The Garbage Collector / 88  
 A Summer Rain / 90  
 The Waterfall / 91  
 Before the Rain / 91  
 Clouds and Seagulls / 92  
 The Raindrops / 93  
 A Summer Morning after Rain / 93  
 Elm Leaves Strewn on the Ground  
 after Gusts / 95  
 The Leaves Shine like Silver / 95  
 The Night Sky / 96  
 A Seagull / 97  
 The Rain / 98  
 Morning at Seaside / 98  
 The North Sea Park on a Spring Day / 99  
 The Sandglass / 100  
 The Matador / 101  
 The Shore after Nightfall / 102  
 The End of Summer / 103  
 Ambulance in the Morning / 104  
 The Ballerina / 104



The Trees / 106  
Trees after Sunset / 107  
The Present Hunter / 107  
The Hospital / 108  
The Mask / 109  
The Water Deliverer / 110  
Night Wind / 110  
A Train in the Rain / 111  
A Scared Child / 112  
Fish Dish / 113  
The Wanderer / 113  
Blank / 114  
Rain Sleep / 115  
Light / 116  
Tongue-lie-d / 117  
A Nap in the Sun / 117  
Autumn Wind / 118  
I Invited Silence... / 119



## *Thoughts*

- Tank and Tractor / 123  
Mark on Time / 124  
Whisper to the River / 125  
The River of Time / 126  
My Best Poem / 126  
Love Is... / 128  
The Tribute / 129  
In a Dark, Silent Room / 130  
Puddle Puzzle / 132  
Angel Soup / 132  
The Clouds of Years / 133  
The Stars Could Be... / 134  
Each of My Poems... / 134  
What's Soul? / 134  
Cherry Doesn't Quit / 136  
Eagle in Cage / 137  
Years / 138  
Bullets / 140  
Who Consumed... / 141  
The Rush / 142  
Me / 143  
Patience / 144  
The Sniper / 145

The Streets / 146  
The Merchant of Time / 147  
Money Talks / 149  
Origami of Eternity / 150  
The Philosopher and the Beggar / 150  
The Fountain / 152  
Saints and Villains / 153  
Whale and Well / 155  
The Juice of Time / 156  
Gray / 156  
Heartbeats in Water / 157  
The Chair / 158  
Words / 159  
Saving Time / 160  
Death / 161  
Grass Cliffs / 162  
The Doubt / 163  
Mindscape / 163  
Smile / 164  
Pitcairn Island / 165  
Car and Star / 167  
Tomorrow / 168  
To Harsh Winter Winds / 169  
Numbers and Words / 170  
9:37 / 171

A Bench / 172  
Head Planet / 172  
Courage / 173  
Temple of Desires / 174  
Parched / 175  
Diamond and Water / 176  
Stingray and Ashtray / 176  
I and Me / 177  
Recipes to Happiness / 179  
The Reflection / 180  
The Fulfillment / 181  
The Universe and Stars / 183  
The Deep and the Shallow / 183  
The Crowd and the Cave / 183  
A Tortoise / 186  
The Carapace / 186  
The Peg / 188  
The Crossing / 188  
The Meaning / 189  
Ephemera / 190  
Hunger and Satiety / 191  
The Bookworm / 192  
The Satisfaction / 192  
The Meaning of Life / 194  
The Refrigeration / 195

The Buoys / 196  
The Water of Action / 197  
The Taming of Anger / 198  
The Search / 200  
The Echo / 201  
Ode to Wifi / 202  
In Nature's Eye / 203  
My Shadow and I / 203  
The Incense Stick / 204  
The Dictionary / 205  
The Drought / 205  
Paper Cut / 206  
Clock Assassin / 207  
The Torch and the Shadow / 208  
Stargazing / 208  
Happiness / 209  
The Botanical Garden / 209  
The Spider Web / 210  
The Terracotta Army / 211  
A Fishing Fleet in the Morning / 212  
The Snail and the Conch Shell / 214  
Sea Thought / 215  
Eternity / 216  
Small Thoughts / 216  
The Veteran / 217



The Tightrope Walker / 218  
Love Af-fair / 219  
The Stars Could Be... / 220  
The Fireflies / 220  
The Hairs / 221  
The Rearview Mirror / 222  
The Oars / 223  
Children on a Summer Night / 223  
The Well / 225  
A Fairly Romantic Thought / 225

### *Sentiments*

I Dreamt That Time Turned into Birds / 229  
Light Addicted / 229  
Here I Stand... / 231  
Stranded / 232  
The Black Hole / 233  
The Wolf Pack of Memories / 235  
How to Cheer Up This Sullen Sky? / 235  
The Relief / 237  
The Joy / 238  
The Noisy Birds / 239  
Gratitude / 240  
The Sight of Her / 241