

## standing room only



#### standing room only

Cover design: Shloka Shankar

First published in 2019 by Yavanika Press Bangalore, India

Copyright © 2019 Pat Nelson

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher, except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.



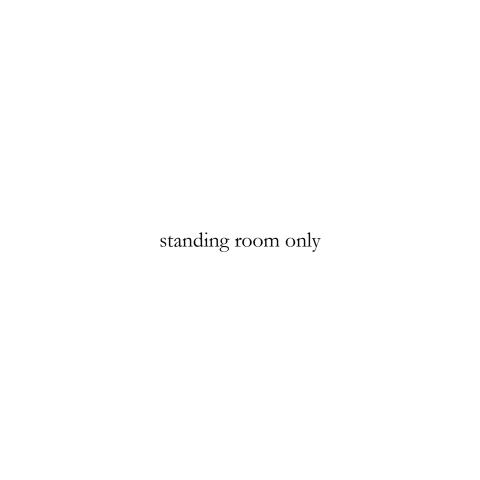
#### Acknowledgements

Thanks to everyone at Yavanika Press for all their efforts in making this book possible. A special thank you goes to Shloka Shankar for her faith and gentle counsel throughout the process. I am especially grateful to Don Wentworth for his generous and insightful review.

The poem "no backup plan" was included as a *demikasen* in the renku *Knee-deep in Daisies*, and appears in John Carley's seminal book, *Renku Reckoner*.

In this world We walk on the roof of hell Gazing at flowers

— Kobayashi Issa



between heaven and earth the wiggle-room the god question & daffodils

flowers at our feet the hell in our heads

(after Issa)

...and more with the Nightly News after the break

sky-blue-pink pills to balance yr thoughts about unicorns no backup plan just fuzzy dice and a dashboard Jesus misdirections taken in the now here & now what!

evolution :: the dog-eared offerings of what he said, she said
7

be yourself.
the one before they told you what that was.
i don't know if it's possible, she said.
ah, he said, there's the rub.

sit long enough and the river in the fish becomes a bird

**Note:** The prose for this haibun was inspired by a casual conversation with Don Wenworth.

it happens that way sometimes

yr poems walk you to the edge

with all the other pilgrims

this life as an artist it's all there, what has been painted in and painted out nebula the color of my certainty

### midnight blues

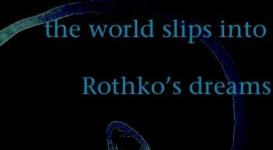
alone in the it's raining now not every weight has a name

a stone's throw not far enough but enough lavender hours... here at the furthest edge of sorrow standing room only the box in my head

the morning after eggs & bacon & the usual monologue	

star map inside the dreams inside me winter solitude my enso offers the slightest exit sailing off the edge with a metaphor shaped like a boat

# nightfall





**Pat Nelson** is an artist and haiku poet. She lives in the foothills of the Pocono Mountains with her husband and Izzy the cat. Pat enjoys exploring the nature of our human journey.

"The best poetry, as exemplified in the work of Pat Nelson, speaks to the heart of things, chronicling our archetypal journey from birth to death, before and beyond. As a haiku/short form poet extraordinaire, Nelson not only excels at answering the questions this approach conjures but also succinctly and lyrically reshapes the very questions themselves. Simply put, Pat Nelson's poetry is an essential experience for poetry readers in general, and haiku lovers in particular."

— Don Wentworth, Editor of Lilliput Review