



MEDIA CONTACT:

Kim Francis
Magpie Communications
813-528-2252
Kim@MagpieLLC.com

Richard Snodgrass Publishes Tenth and Last of Critically Acclaimed Books of Furnass

The collection of stories, with the author's photographs of mills and mill towns,
to be released November 18, 2022

PITTSBURGH, PA – Calling Crow Press is pleased to announce the publication of Richard Snodgrass' newest work, a collection of stories entitled *Redding Up*, the tenth volume of the ten "Books of Furnass" Series, on November 18, 2022.

In the working class dialect of Western Pennsylvania around Pittsburgh, the phrase *redd up* means to put in order, to tidy or make neat, such as *after dinner we helped redd up the table*. In the stories of *Redding Up*, we see characters from other books of the series seeking closure or meaning from earlier events as they continue to live their lives. For instance, a successful businesswoman returns to her hometown to tie up some loose ends, dealing with a recalcitrant uncle and the living arrangements of her father's mistress. A Black homicide detective comes to Furnass to learn something of the life of a man he killed twenty-three years earlier. A local hero finds himself fleeing his past even as he pursues it through his daily rounds, watched over by the glowing red eye of a great winged dragon. Or not.

In counterpoint to the book's five longish stories of a mill town struggling to survive without a mill, *Redding Up* includes folios of the author's photographs of mills and mill towns north of Pittsburgh when the steel industry was flourishing in the region during the mid-1970s. The book concludes with a Coda, which could serve as a Coda for the entire Books of Furnass series, an origin story of the time before there was a town here when a chief of the fictional Onagona Indians has to choose between expediency and survival when confronted with the spiritual.

"This book was a surprise to me; I thought I had finished the Books of Furnass with the ninth book of the series, *All That Will Remain*, which concluded the saga of the Lyle family," says Snodgrass. "But after living with these characters for the thirty-five years it took to write the series, I started wondering how their lives progressed after the time of their respective novels and stories. Because writing fiction is a process of discovery for me, I wrote these stories to keep in contact with some old friends."

Snodgrass left San Francisco in the early 1980s where he had lived since graduating from Berkeley in the 1960s, returning to his hometown of Beaver Falls (near Pittsburgh) to write about mill towns and the surrounding farmlands. The Books of Furnass Series also includes: *The Building*, *Some Rise*, *All Fall Down*, *Across the River*, *Holding On*, *The Pattern Maker*, *A Book of Days*, *Furrow and Slice*, and *All That Will Remain*. Each book in the series is set in or near the fictional mill town of Furnass, located along the banks of the Allehela River, a fictional tributary of the Ohio River. The books take place in the town during various time periods, ranging from the French and Indian War to modern day.

More information about the entire Books of Furnass Series, including readers' guides, town maps, and promotional videos, can be found at www.RichardSnodgrass.com.

About Richard Snodgrass

Richard Snodgrass is an author and photographer whose short stories and essays have appeared in the *New England Review/Bread Loaf Quarterly*, *South Dakota Review*, *California Review*, *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, and elsewhere. He is a master photographer who has been artist-in-residence at LightWorks (University of Syracuse) and at the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos, New Mexico. He is the recipient of a fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

In 1989, Viking published Snodgrass's novel, *There's Something in the Back Yard*, to critical acclaim: "Observe this mysterious book and be changed," wrote Jack Stephens in the *Washington Post Book World*. Snodgrass is also the author of *An Uncommon Field: The Flight 93 Temporary Memorial*, published in September of 2011 by Carnegie Mellon University Press, and *Kitchen Things: An Album of Vintage Utensils and Farm Kitchen Recipes*, published in 2013 by Skyhorse and named one of the year's "best books to get you thinking about food" by the Associated Press. Recently, Snodgrass was profiled by *Kirkus Reviews*, and was a sponsor of the 2022 Greater Pittsburgh Festival of Books. In February of 2022, Carnegie Mellon University Press published a memoir, *The House with Round Windows*, about his family and their influence on the work of his brother, the poet W. D. Snodgrass.

Richard Snodgrass lives in Pittsburgh, Pa., with his wife Marty and two indomitable female tuxedo cats, raised from feral kittens, named Frankie and Becca.

A Sample of the Critical Praise for Snodgrass' Previously Released Books of Furnass:

The Building: "An audacious, gripping, and wise novel." – *Kirkus Reviews (Starred)*

Some Rise: "A sequel that improves on its predecessor" – *Self-Publishing Review*

All Fall Down: "...a fitting end to a dramatically gripping series." – *Kirkus Reviews*

Across the River: "A thoughtful and powerfully written war novel." – *Kirkus Reviews*

Holding On: "A powerful achievement from a truly outstanding author." – *SPR*

The Pattern Maker: "Moving and impactful to the very end." – *SPR*

A Book of Days: "A mesmerizing soldier's tale, grippingly dramatic." – *Kirkus Reviews*

Furrow and Slice: "A vivid, moving collection that explores the unrecoverable past." – *Kirkus Reviews*

All That Will Remain: "An impressive piece of American storytelling" – *Self-Publishing Review – 5 Stars*

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