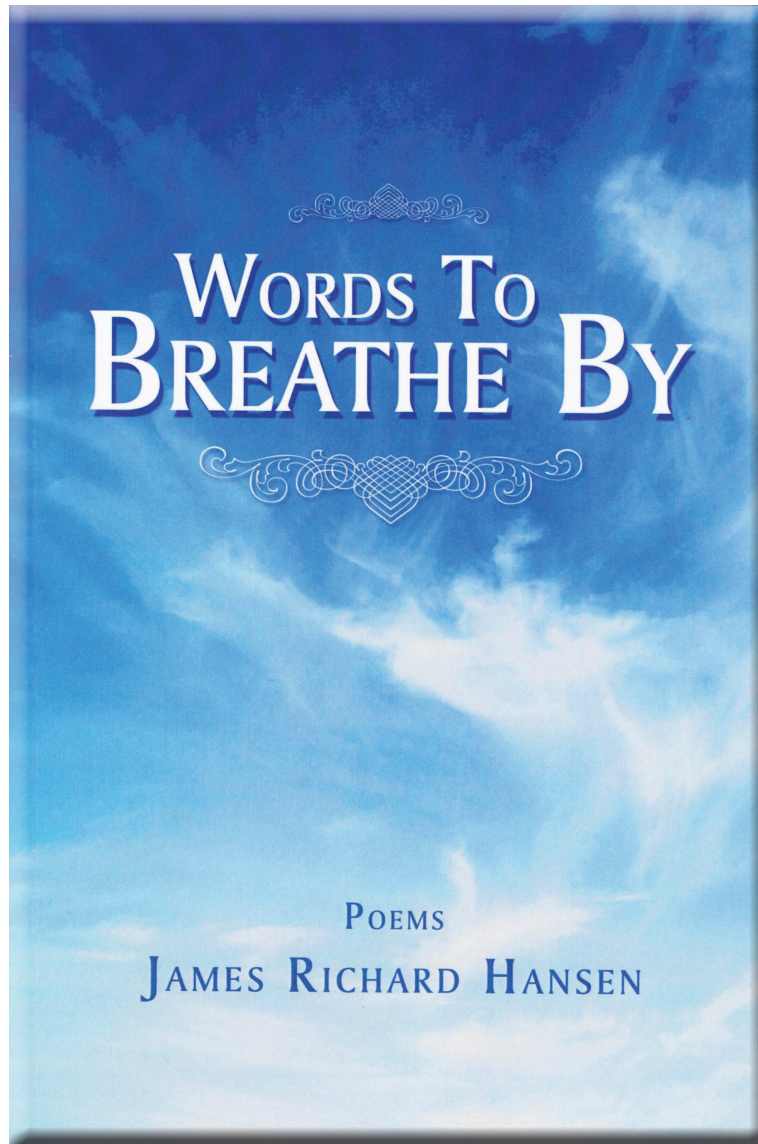

A Review of James Richard Hansen's *Words To Breathe By* by Kathy Kendrick, SFSPE



Reading *Words To Breathe By*, the newest collection of poems published by Thousander James Richard Hansen, left me amazed at how unequivocally appropriate the title is. The poems contained within the pages of this book work to refresh mind and soul. Losing myself in the imagery of nature and emotion, I felt as though I had taken a deep, cleansing breath of crisp air—a breath that quickened my spirit. Truly, these poems *are* words to breathe by.

I am no poet myself, and I claim to have no particular skills for analyzing poetry in any

sort of academic manner. *Dactyl*, *spondee*, and *anapest* are Greek to me. The ideas of *meter* and *stanza* are not facets I pay any attention to when experiencing poetry. But I can read, and I can feel; and I believe those to be the only prerequisites necessary to get caught up in the enchanting words that James penned in this short but potent book, and to experience—*truly sense*—the beautiful refreshment in its messages.

I found that this poem in *Words To Breathe By* serves as the perfect summation of James' book as a whole:

Poetry

The music of words
resounding in all the senses,
the sweet fragrance of sound,
the lustrous picturesque hues,
the delicate but powerful touch
of imagination and ideas,
all transcending time and space
and penetrating body and mind,
renewing the Self.

Over the past few years, *Telicom* has had the privilege of sharing some of James' poetry works. No doubt, you've had the pleasure of reading some of his poems in our journal. Each one of those selections has resonated with a unique power of its own. But the opportunity to experience an entire collection of James' poetry—page after page of tangibly invigorating words—I would describe as both breathtaking *and* breath-giving. Just feel the regeneration contained in this effectual selection:

Revival

The sun sinks like my heart.
It sets in a flurry of scarlet and orange,
with cirrus clouds adding
to the mercurial mix.
The rising moon sparks my recovery,
and a little sparkle comes back to my eyes.
I am alive again.

While enjoying *Words To Breathe By*, I was impressed by the realization that these words, which renew and refresh me today, are not at all anchored by time and will be equally fitting and powerful when read 5, 10, or 50 years from now. One poem in particular struck me as especially appropriate for the current day; yet upon a second reading, I appreciated how time will never limit this poem's magic:

Rain

Morning, in its abundant riches,
greet me with the beauty of rain.
The pain I experience daily
does not dampen the joy of morning,
its spirit melding with mine.
When I stand in the rain
on a rare day without sunshine,
I feel its cleansing power
dripping down my skin,
purging the emotional debris
of life's daily battles.

Whatever your daily battles are, whatever emotional debris you carry, I believe James Richard Hansen's poetry in *Words To Breathe By* is the cleansing rain and breath of fresh air perfectly capable of renewing your spirit. I think our whole world could be improved if only we all had the opportunity to get lost in James' poetry and allow its healing power to revive us.

Words To Breathe By, the latest poetry masterpiece by Thousander James Richard Hansen, is available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), and [authorhouse.com](https://www.authorhouse.com). [Ω](#)