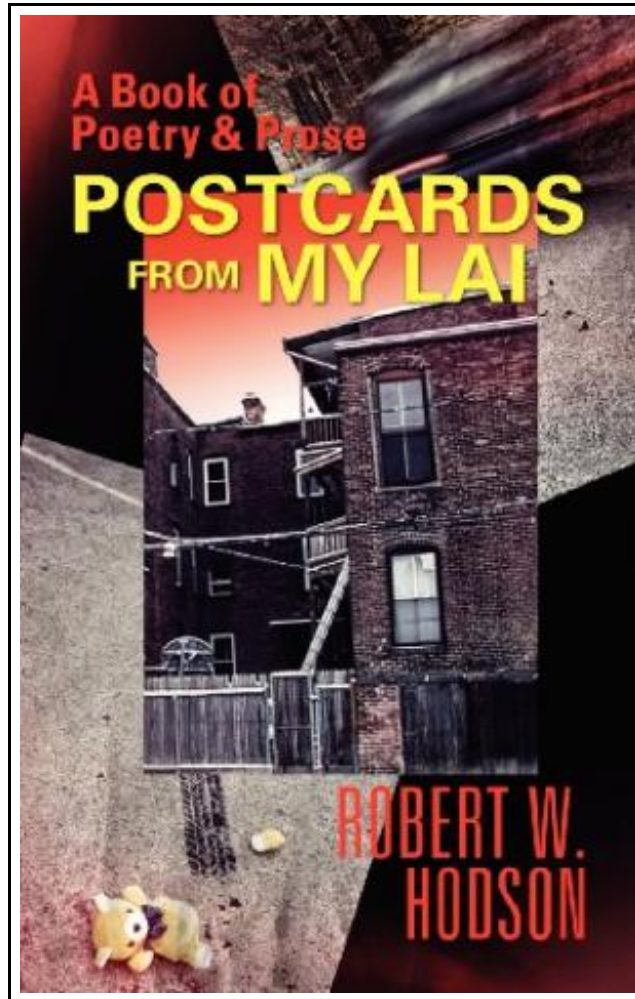


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Outskirts Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 96 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.5in. The Beach Boys would have you believe Kokomo is an island oasis, vaguely somewhere in the Caribbean. Not even close. I grew up in Kokomo, was half-raised there throughout the turbulent sixties and early seventies, alongside my beautiful sister and our older brother who died far too young; our family's first casualty in a war we barely understood. A war fought not only in color-conscious streets and green-burdened jungles but waged in the frangible tissue of a child's heart and the foetus temple of a youthful soul. Our Kokomo was not so much a town in central Indiana as it was a time. A time marked by violence and Vietnam, the Civil Rights Movement and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Beatles and countless beatings . . . madness and the My Lai massacre. In my child's mind-and even now-I will forever associate our Kokomo with that luckless village in the coastal lowlands of eastern Qung Ngi Province. When I escaped Kokomo at age fifteen, I thought I'd gotten out alive. I was mistaken; it's just that some people bleed out slower than others. My death would take years, and I would wreak a wide path of heartbreak and destruction all along the way. Cornfield or rice paddy . . . Kokomo or My Lai-hell is hell. Choose your poison. No, no, don't set the cup down. Drink up and join me . . . if only for a few hours. I hope you will hate this book as much as I do. I will always be haunted by the Kokomo of my childhood, but it's to there I'll always return . . . if only to find the boy. This item...



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