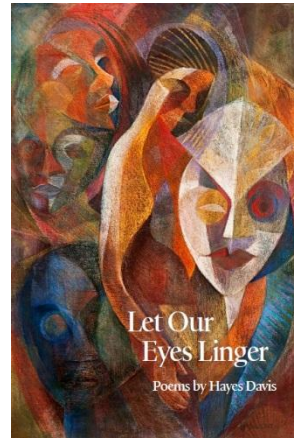




*Poetry Mutual*

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**CONTACT: Michael Gushue,**  
**info@poetrymutual.com**

*Let Our Eyes Linger*  
by Hayes Davis



Hayes Davis' debut collection of poetry, *Let Our Eyes Linger* delves deeply into the author's life as son, grandson, father, husband, and artist, while illuminating currents of racial identity and the plight of other black men. These include Jim, the runaway slave from Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, who speaks here in his own in poems that deepen one of the most complicated and controversial characters in *American Literature*.

Reginald Dwayne Betts calls *Let Our Eyes Linger* "a testament to how the stories we tell ourselves to get through the day can become the poetry that speaks to more than our own existence." Joshua Wiener praises poems "that dramatize the contingencies of family; of its direct influence on the kinds of language we speak...that draw honestly the flight of eros from the domestic scene, as well as the endurance of love & devotion." Toi Derricote writes that "Davis' poems invite comparisons with Robert Hayden and Gwendolyn Brooks' poems of 20<sup>th</sup> century family life. He uses enormous formal skill to anchor the poems, but it is the great heart at the center that wins us."

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Author photo, cover photo, and review copies available on request.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hayes Davis holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Maryland. He is a member of Cave Canem's first cohort of fellows, and a former Bread Loaf working scholar. His work has appeared in *New England Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Gargoyle*, and several anthologies. He teaches high-school English in Washington, DC, and lives in Silver Spring with his wife, poet Teri Ellen Cross Davis, and their children.

#### ABOUT POETRY MUTUAL

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