



A Short History of the Shadow: Poems

Charles Wright

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Luminous new poems from the author of "*The Appalachian Book of the Dead*"

Landscape, as Wang Wei says, softens the sharp edges of isolation.

Don't just do something, sit there.

And so I have, so I have,

the seasons curling around me like smoke,

Gone to the end of the earth and back without a sound.

-*"Body and Soul II"*

This is Charles Wright's first collection of verse since the completion of his *Appalachian Book of the Dead*, the trilogy of trilogies hailed as one "among the great long poems of the century" (James Longenbach, *Boston Review*). Wright speaks in these poems with characteristic charm, restlessness, and wit, writing again and again, "I sit where I always sit," only to reveal himself in a new setting every time. In *A Short History of the Shadow* Wright's return to the landscapes of his early work finds his art resilient in a world haunted by death and the dead.

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