



Surrounded by Friends (Wave Books)

Matthew Rohrer

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"Rohrer's frequently beautiful, brief poems are rooted in specific images that initially seem unrelated—but which ultimately form a unity as meditations on how the ordinary distractions of everyday life can be seen as the source for almost everything important in life."—Ken Tucker, *Entertainment Weekly*

The poems in Matthew Rohrer's seventh poetry collection are generated by, and embrace, friendships with the living, the dead, and the inanimate. Friends, family, and the urban pepleescape are gathered together in these poems, with more and more poetic voices joining in, and ending with poems written "in collaboration" with Kobayashi Issa, Yosa Buson, Matsuo Basho, and Hafiz.

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LONELIER

*There is absolutely nothing lonelier
than the little Mars rover
never shutting down, digging up
rocks, so far away from Bond Street
in a light rain. I wonder
if he makes little beeps? If so
he is lonelier still. He fires a laser
into the dust. He coughs. A shiny
thing in the sand turns out to be his.*

Matthew Rohrer has received the Hopwood Award for poetry, a Pushcart Prize, was selected as a National Poetry Series winner by Mary Oliver, and was shortlisted for the Griffin International Poetry Prize. He is the co-author, with Joshua Beckman, of *Nice Hat. Thanks.*, and the audio CD *Adventures While Preaching the Gospel of Beauty*. He has appeared on NPR's *All Things Considered* and *The Next Big Thing*. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, and teaches at NYU.

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