DETROIT, April 1, 2013—Distinct from the rest of the state in geography, climate, and culture, Michigan’s Upper Peninsula also boasts a unique and thriving creative writing community. *The Way North: Collected Upper Peninsula New Works*, edited by Ron Riekki, presents poetry, fiction, and non-fiction from memorable, varied voices that are writing from and about Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. *Stuart Dybek calls the collection “beautifully edited . . . more than a collection. It is a collaboration of writers, each of whom understand in his and her own way what is sacred about that utterly unique, freshwater peninsula known as the U.P.”*

In all, the anthology features new works from forty-two writers, including rising star Ellen Airgood, Edgar Award winner Steve Hamilton, Rona Jaffe Award winner Catie Rosemurgy, Jonathan Johnson of Best American Poetry, Michigan Notable Book Award winner Keith Taylor, and Michigan Author Award winner John Smolens. Its 49 poems and 20 stories, the book not only showcases the snow, small towns, and idiosyncratic characters that readers might expect but also introduces unexpected regions and voices. From the powerful powwow in Baraga of April Lindala’s “For the Healing of All Women” to the sex-charged basement in Stambaugh of Chad Faries’s “Hotel Stambaugh: Michigan, 1977” to the splendor found between Newberry and Paradise in Joseph D. Haske’s “Tahquamenon,” readers will delight in discovering the work of both new and established authors. The contributors range widely in age, gender, and background, as* The Way North highlights the work of established writers, teachers, students, laborers, fishermen, housewives, and many others.

*The Way North* brings the U.P.’s literary tradition to the awareness of more readers and showcases some of the most compelling work connected to the area. It will be welcomed by all readers interested in fiction, poetry, or the culture of Michigan’s U.P.

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