ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*A Call to Nursing*, Kaplan Publishing, for Spring 2009 release: “Sondercommando,” “The Safe Zone,” and “Slow Night in the ER”.

These are gutsy life experience poems from a nurse-poet who knows “the forces that bend people like trees under a wet spring snow.” Read these poems again and again to get to the truth—the whole truth of how her life was and how her life remains. Here, in strong poems, is a complex life fully exposed.

—Judy Schaefer, RNC, MA
Author of Harvesting the Dew and Editor of The Poetry of Nursing, Poems and Commentaries of Leading Nurse-Poets

Anne Webster, in poems both raw and redeeming, lets us walks beside her as she enters the many worlds she inhabits as nurse, daughter, wife, mother, traveler and, perhaps most poignantly, as patient. This poet has a keen eye and a special gift: the ability to interweave tragedy with a cheeky determination to survive, and empathy with humor. These poems, with their delightfully surprising and gritty images, are the observations of a true nurse—one who has been there, who has seen and done those things, who would, without a moment’s hesitation, rush to save us.

—Courtney Davis
Author of The Heart’s Truth: Essays on the Art of Nursing, I Knew a Woman, and Leopold’s Maneuvers

Anne Webster’s powerful collection resonates with the voice of one who has stood witness to suffering. Like lamps held aloft in the darkness, these startling poems illuminate hidden truths about childhood, love, loss, and the caring inherent to human relationships.

—Sayantani DasGupta, MD MPH
Author of Her Own Medicine: A Woman’s Journey from Student to Doctor and Co-Editor of Stories of Illness and Healing: Women Write their Bodies

These poems are wise in the ways of this sad old world, this gorgeous and mysterious sad old world. Anne Webster brings us along with her on nurses’ rounds where students “learn how to poke needles / in oranges, in roommates,” and where a coronary bypass patient summons because “a wayward finger of bypasses artery/ waves free.” She also brings us to childhood houses, games of Spin the Bottle, and a Germany where the speaker “spits consonants like tacks.” Capable, confident, observant, and witty, Webster is an excellent guide. How lucky we are to be able to trail her on her rounds.

—Beth Ann Fennelly
Author of Unmentionables

When Anne Webster began nursing school at seventeen, she never dreamed she would become a writer. During twenty-five years in critical care and administration, she published in many literary journals and recently contributed chapters to The Poetry of Nursing: Poems and Commentaries by Leading Nurse Poets and Final Moments: Nurses Stories about Death and Dying. Webster lives in Atlanta with her husband.