



## About Me

I have a Bachelor's Degree in English from Seattle University and a Master's of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing, with an emphasis in contemporary poetry and creative nonfiction, from the University of Michigan. I've been teaching writing, in various forms, for more than twenty years. I write and publish poetry, and I also write creative nonfiction.

In my life outside the university, I'm a professional writer and writing coach, an amateur gardener and a bread baker. I rescue beagles who have lost their way or have been rejected as too old for the chase. People who think that are wrong. At any age, beagles are smart, loyal, humorous, focused, and independent creatures. They are master escape artists and counter-surfers. They believe that every person they smell is a permanent member of their clan. Powerful scent hounds, a beagle smells the world into being. I am proud to be a member of the Barry Allen tribe.

*Current writing projects: creative nonfiction essay collection, "Some of us are dogs on the verge of speaking", and a poetry manuscript, "Sanctuary"*

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I am an avid book junkie and a nature lover, known among the locals here as a bat whisperer. I have persuaded beautiful and ponderously slow painted turtles out of crossing dangerous highways at night.

*the best writing experiences involve travel and exploration*

Go into the woods, I tell them. Find your path, stay off the main roads, follow your noses. You'll be glad you did. I have found this to be good advice for writing, too. Because the best writing experiences involve travel and exploration, don't they?