

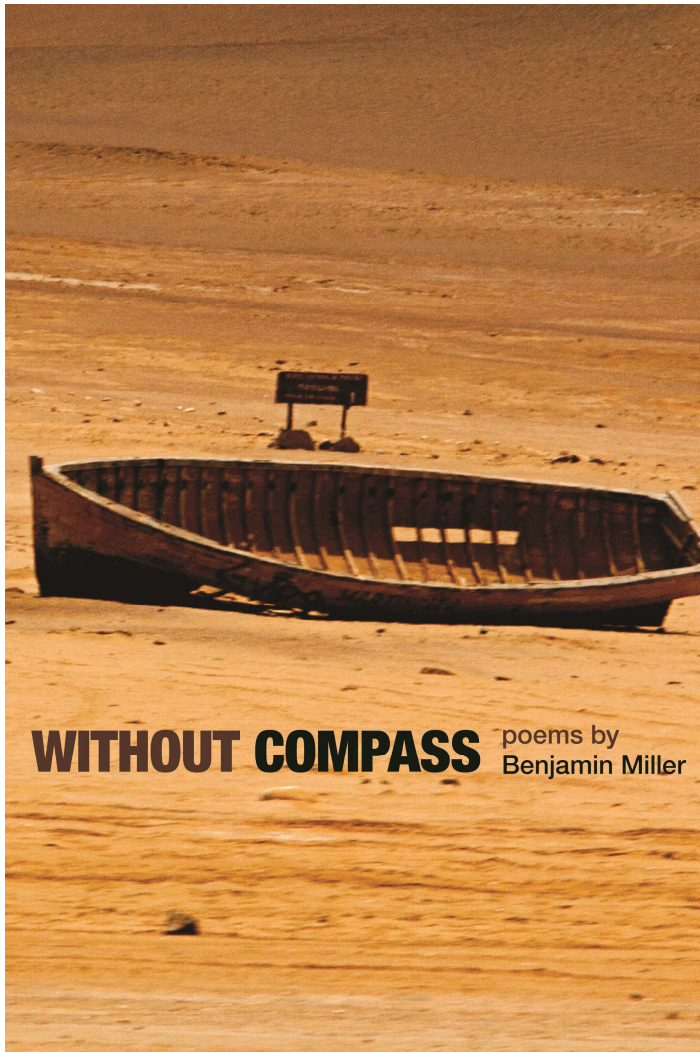
Without Compass / Benjamin Miller

April 2014

PRESS RELEASE: Four Way Books announces the publication of *Without Compass* by Benjamin Miller. Publicity measures include readings, conference & festival appearances, and radio appearances. For information, e-mail publicity@fourwaybooks.com

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Through recurring dreams of grandeur, self-sabotage, and defeat, Benjamin Miller's collection *Without Compass* explores the desert margins between faith and emptiness, between "desire and its counterfeits." Carved down, elliptical, the poems seek "the perfect flaw" with which to "cruel you to thought." From behind the "veil and doubt" of the lyric voice, they lead us in pursuit of the possibility of belief.



In a Recurring Dream of Winged Ascent

Sirens and flares reflect
blue-white off windows
opposite. How sense is dulled

by repetition, hammers
in the pulse that etch out
your epitaph: a single word

ad infinitum. Across the wall
blackbird-shadows panic,
always from right to left,

always the same unfolding
suicide of origami light.
May this, then, be your gift: to notice,

when the images have gone,
that they were on their way—
and knew where they were going.

Publication Date: April 2014 • 978-1-935536-38-3 • Poetry • \$15.95 • Paper, 60 pages • 6 x 9

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Please send tear sheets of any reviews to:

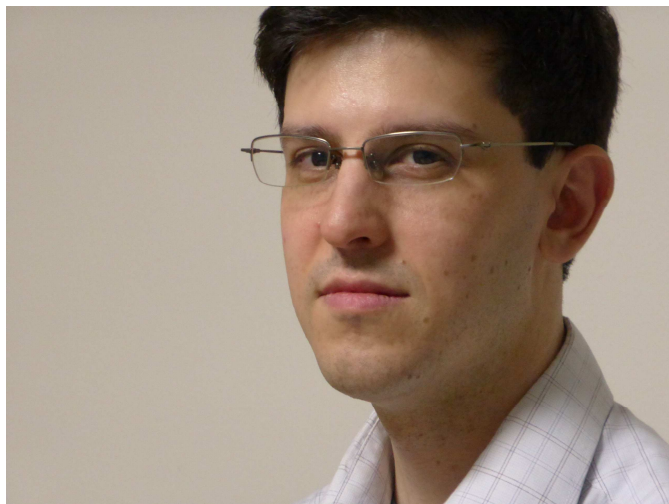
Four Way Books, PO Box 535, Village Station, New York, NY 10014

Advance Praise for *Without Compass*

“In his beautiful, bruised new book, *Without Compass*, Benjamin Miller presses questions on us about the risks of losing our bearings in the world of feeling. And his poems hurl us into new territory, answers that are somehow both brutal and comforting.... These gorgeous, painful poems map the unpredictable weather of the psyche: torrential, scorching, cold or calm. We would be lost without them.”
—**Tom Healy**

“Both as it saunters with the prophet’s stride and traipses with the acolyte’s hurry-up, Ben Miller’s precise debut is a work of forceful imagination and elegant verve—a masterstroke of approach and echolocation. These deft, Escher-like poems appear like magical tricks, yet there’s no gimmick to their studied resonance. As he reveals the significance of transitional spaces—borders, twilight, doubt—Miller shows us how we might think, if not more clearly about our lives, then more fully.”
—**Lytton Smith**

“In these imagistic, shimmering, often enigmatic poems, Benjamin Miller meditates on the ways love and mourning both empty and purify us. Here, figures from the Bible express their fears whisperingly into our ears, and images—a folded bit of paper, blinking lights reflected on an airport window—are described with electric clarity. Seen through a car window, a fence becomes a zoetrope ‘that speed has all but made transparent, the empty space revealed beyond: a flipbook life’ and the landscape outside a tent is ‘the desert, and outside the desert, sand.’ Benjamin Miller’s work is nuanced, discomfoting, and filled with a fascinating spiritual awe. This is a very fine and thoughtful book.”
—**Kevin Prufer**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Benjamin Miller has studied at Harvard, Columbia, and the CUNY Graduate Center, and has taught writing at Columbia and Hunter College. His poems have appeared in *RHINO*, *Pleiades*, *The Greensboro Review*, and elsewhere; *Without Compass* is his first book. For more about Ben, visit majoringinmeta.net.

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