

# The Poetry of DAMON FALKE

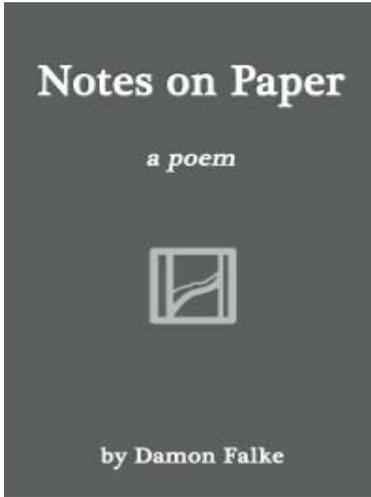
## Among Ruins

What is there to make of the house and porch  
 Crumbling into ruins, of bindweed grown  
 Up through slats of rotted timber, chipped and  
 Dismantled by the long harvest of families  
 Who could never stay here? The curtains rent,  
 Bed iron overturned in the cross-hairs  
 Of paneless windows and the still screen door  
 Remarkably intact and just parted  
 For us to see the knob missing, the door shut  
 We guess for years. These are the signs we think  
 Of some country we know to be passing.  
 Old hearsay and spirit talk gone into  
 The near silence of the place. Still we stop  
 To look a little and to wonder some  
 At the lean of abandonment, at those  
 Birds who have stopped with us, gracing now the  
 Slopes of spring trees. What would it mean to go  
 Forward, to cross this barbed wire strung here?  
 The wind tap of a tin sign left on the line  
 Just where we stand, where others used to be.



*DAMON FALKE, a former resident of Moab, Utah, is the author of Broken Cycles, a collaboration between his poetry and the photography of Rebekah Wilkins-Pepiton, formerly of Pagosa Springs. Falke is a graduate of the University of Texas and St. John's College-Santa Fe.*

*He lives in Marshall, Texas with his wife Cassie and their two sons.*



*In Notes on Paper, Falke walks us through the landscape of one man's mind, which contains both his past and an awareness of our common future. From within private memories the narrator reaches out to us with 'we' and 'you', and each spare line invokes the hope that we, like him, are worthy of return to our most longed for places. And if to return is not our fate,*

*and really it never can be, the narrator bids us survey our own memories, taking time in the present for the winds, and the words, that move the world.*

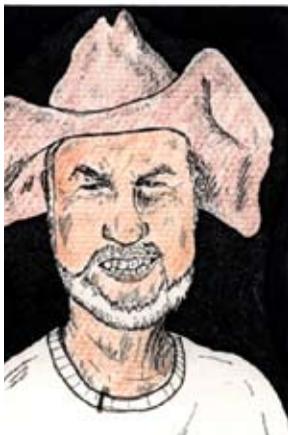
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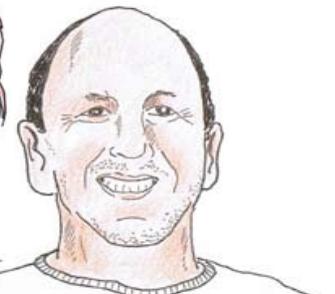
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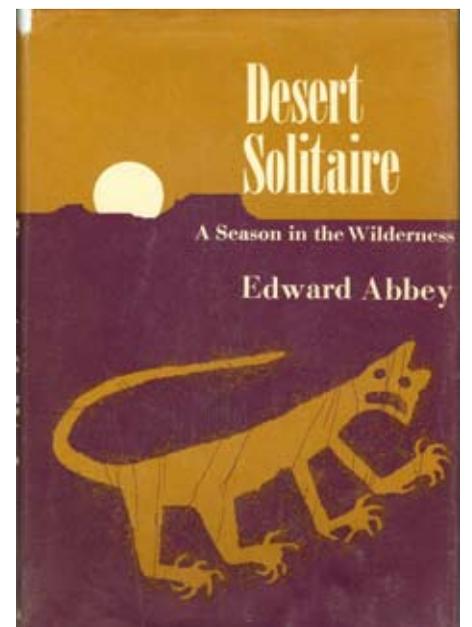


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