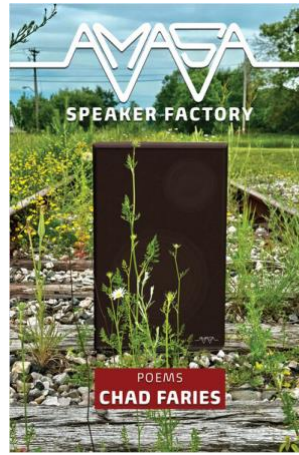


Amasa Speaker Factory: Poems

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Synopsis: *Amasa Speaker Factory* wanders Michigan's Upper Peninsula with a mining helmet, a pickaxe, and a dizzying soundtrack.

Chad Faries sifts through abandoned mines, family history, and the quiet damage of loving Iron County, Michigan--a place that keeps trying to break him. His poetry mines the U.P.'s economic decline, stubborn resilience, and awkward small-town rituals, balancing bleak humor with bruised affection. Both a personal autopsy and a regional love letter, Faries proves that identity, like iron, is forged under pressure and usually leaves a mess behind.

"*Amasa Speaker Factory* is a brilliant Book, a literature of roller rinks and huffy bikes and homegrown weed. Chad Faries explores a far-northern Midwest where wilderness has been decades reclaiming mine ruins, radio waves reach through decades as your sweet, tired town 'calls you home with a radio dial,' through speakers from those same years with voices that will grow with long grass between railroad ties."

-- Jonathan Johnson, author of *Pine*

"Brilliant and beguiling; this book is magnetic as the Yooper iron that binds it. As a U.P. rock opera, *Amasa Speaker Factory* is a tantalizing mindmeld memory--divine, devilish, hardscrabble, tumultuous reckoned life--pierced with the cold flames of youthful gains shredding loss. The heart skips less beats when we up and lose ourselves."

-- Alison Adelle Hedge Coke, author of *Look at This Blue*

At once "a reliquary of cosmic signals" and a "dance among the taxidermy," the book straddles ode and elegy. Faries' project is not only to retell, but to rescue and remake the stories—to write something more real than "pamphlet" and "find a home in the white space." Each "scribble of brackish water squeezed from a rag of a sky" becomes poetry. Faries fills this haunting collection with unexpected moments of holy, a broken holy that nevertheless endures.

-Kimberly Blaeser, author of *Ancient Light* and former Wisconsin Poet Laureate

CHAD FARIES is the author of two poetry collections, *The Border Will Be Soon* and *The Book of Knowledge* and the memoir *Drive Me Out of My Mind*. When not telling stories with words, he creates stories with repurposed wood and found objects. His home, *Diamond Oaks Treehouse* and vintage camper project *The Glam Camp*—with their whimsical carpentry and design—have been featured in *This Old House Magazine*, *Flea Market Décor*, *South Magazine*, and *Savannah Magazine*. Recently, Faries was the producer and co-subject of an award-winning documentary, *Iron Family*, a story of community, resilience, and Jazmine, his sister who lives with Downs Syndrome. When not teaching or petting his cats, Faries is likely lost somewhere in the world on a motorcycle or running up a hill to practice breathing or practicing yoga handstands with his son, León Karlo del Rocío Faries Leal. He divides his time between Iron River, Michigan and Thunderbolt, Georgia.

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