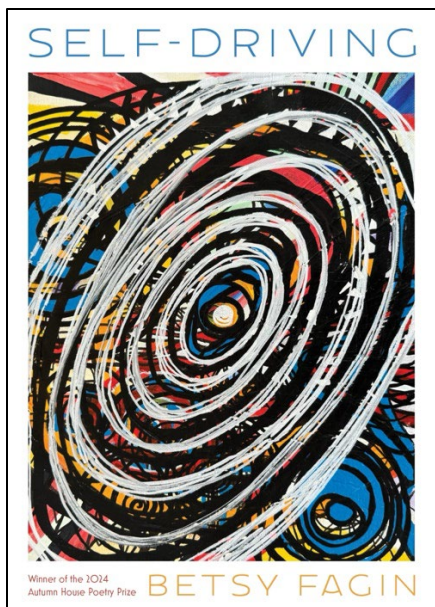




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***self-driving* by Betsy Fagin**

**Winner of the 2024 Autumn House Poetry Prize,
selected by Kazim Ali**

ABOUT THE BOOK

Betsy Fagin's *self-driving* reimagines the American epic through the lens of a contemporary woman's journey.

Rooted in the tradition of the road trip narrative, Fagin's poems interrogate the foundations of freedom, representation, and privilege while dismantling romanticized myths of Western expansion and the cis, white, male-dominated tales of the open road. Through sharp, playful, and incisive verse, Fagin celebrates Black, queer, feminist presence and futures, confronting the erasures and delusions in America's frequently told stories.

Using images of the great American West and the highways that connect it, she charts a path through landscapes of disenfranchisement toward self-determination and agency. Throughout the collection, *self-driving* redefines freedom as both a state and a mindset. In a bold declaration, Fagin writes: "I knew my rights / were all the rights, my freedoms all the freedoms," embodying a call for expansive liberation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Betsy Fagin is also the author of *Fires Seen from Space* (Winter Editions), *All is not yet lost* (Belladonna), *Names Disguised* (Make Now Books), and a number of chapbooks. Her work has received support and awards from the American Library Association, *Library Journal*, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Provincetown Community Compact. She currently lives in Lenapehoking (Brooklyn, NY) and works as a librarian and a meditation teacher.

ADVANCE PRAISE

"Elevation, acceleration, presence."

—*Ms. Magazine*

"Feminist and humanist, the vision here is both passionate and compassionate. I wanted to read it quickly and read it again."

—**Kazim Ali, author of *The Voice of Sheila Chandra***

"*self-driving* is a beautiful exploration of the human experience, evocative and compelling."

—**Sharon Salzberg, author of *Lovingkindness***

"Get in, reader, we're falling in love with language again."

—**Kimberly Alidio, author of *Teeter***