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**PRESS RELEASE**

*Best Western and Other Poems* by Eric Gudas

Winner 2008 Gerald Cable Book Award

Final Judge: Barbara Hamby

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Paperback 80 pages \$14.95

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Eric Gudas was born in Annapolis, Maryland in 1972. His poems, book reviews, and interviews with American poets have appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Iowa Review*, *Poetry Flash*, *The Southern Review*, and other journals. *Beautiful Monster*, his chapbook of poems, was published by Swan Scythe Press in 2003. He and his wife, Alyssa Sherwood, live with their daughter in Los Angeles.

I've been reading Eric Gudas's poems for years, waiting for them to be collected into a book. And now—cause for celebration—they are! Each of these poems celebrates our aliveness here on earth and stops time long enough for us to realize it. These are love poems of the highest order. They wake me up and make me glad. — Marie Howe

Like a wine crafted by sturdy Franciscan monks in southern France, bottled by a crack team of Swiss psychotherapists, and kept in a temperature-controlled vault in the sub-cellar, Eric Gudas has been one of my secret favorite poets for a long time. This careful, rich collection makes his playful, anguished, perceptive and humane poems available at last. *Best Western and Other Poems* is a fine varietal—with hints of cello, playground, and boudoir. This book is full of terrific, distinctive poems, and you will love it. It's that simple. — Tony Hoagland

Eric Gudas is an astonishingly flexible poet, alternately formal and demotic, a sort of dark Whitman chronicling a world of objects made to be thrown away. When he turns to the waste of human energies in our late capitalist economy, he writes a kind of political poetry absolutely unlike anyone else's, utterly inventive, utterly without self-righteousness.—Alan Williamson

Eric Gudas's poems move like an explorer. He brings a lively, fast-footed verbal energy to the work of scoping out insights and perceptions. Language is his instrument of discovery. —Marie Ponsot

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