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ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS

A debut poetry collection that examines how to reconcile a past grave mistake and a future that stretches into one long second chance.

poems by **Cheryl Wilder**

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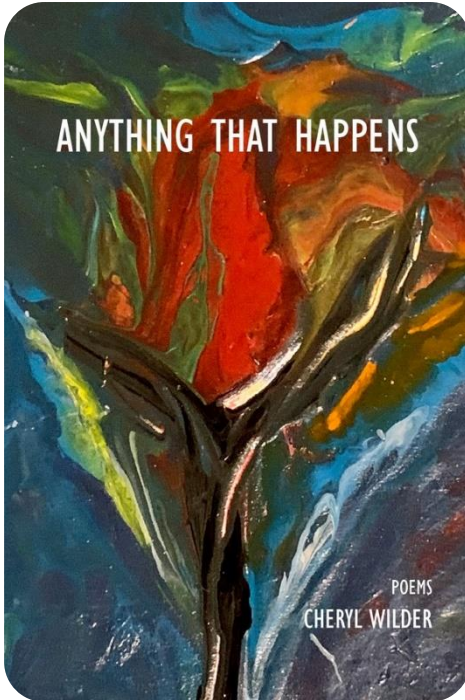
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At the age of twenty, Cheryl Wilder got behind the wheel when she was too drunk to drive. She emerged from the car physically whole. Her passenger, a close friend, woke up from a coma four months later with a life-changing brain injury. *Anything That Happens* follows Wilder's journey from a young adult consumed by shame and self-hatred to a woman she can live with... and even respect.

"Cheryl Wilder's poems are almost shatteringly direct: they explore guilt and suffering so cleanly and so precisely that every detail testifies, and mercy is ever possible. This is a brave and honorable book." –Nancy Eimers, author of *Oz*

"*Anything That Happens* is a mature poetic inquiry into the ways early trauma can reverberate through the whole of a life—relationships, family, one's sense of self. The poems are candid, sharp-edged and very well rendered. You can taste 'the bone in the broth' here as she works through the maze of emotion. In the end, we witness change and redemption, but the psychic weight remains. As Wilder aptly describes it: 'I am two people now— // the before and the after; one I've already forgotten, // the other I have not met.'" –Mark Cox, author of *Readiness: Prose Poems*



Cheryl Wilder is the author of the chapbook *What Binds Us* (Finishing Line Press, 2017). Her work appears in *Barely South Review*, *Verse Daily*, *Cream City Review*, *Literary Mama*, and *Architects + Artisans*, among other publications. Cheryl has served as writer-in-residence at *SistaWRITE* and was granted residency at Sundress Academy for the Arts. A founder and editor of *Waterwheel Review*, she earned her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives with her family in Haw River, NC.