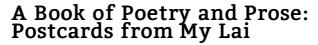


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By Robert W. Hodson

Outskirts Press, Hardcover, Book Condition: New, Hardcover, 96 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.5in. The Beach Boys would have you believe Kokomo is an island oasis, vaguely somewhere in the Caribbean. Not even close. I grew up in Kokomo, was half-raised there throughout the turbulent sixties and early seventies, alongside my beautiful sister and our older brother who died far too young; our familys first casualty in a war wed barely understood. A war fought not only in colorconscious streets and green-burdened jungles but waged in the frangible tissue of a childs heart and the foetus temple of a youthful soul. Our Kokomo was not so much a town in central Indiana as it was a time. A time marked by violence and Vietnam, the Civil Rights Movement and the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Beatles and countless beatings... madness and the My Lai massacre. In my childs mind-and even now-I will forever associate our Kokomo with that luckless village in the coastal lowlands of eastern Qung Ngi Province. When I escaped Kokomo at age fifteen, I thought Id gotten out alive. I was mistaken; its just that some people bleed out slower...



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