

Poems and Thoughts is a collection of original art coupled with poems and commentary about life, love and nature. Each writing delves into the elegance and fury of the natural world and how we deal with our lives and values within it. The author challenges readers to see the beauty and excitement of a life grounded in nature and the human condition.

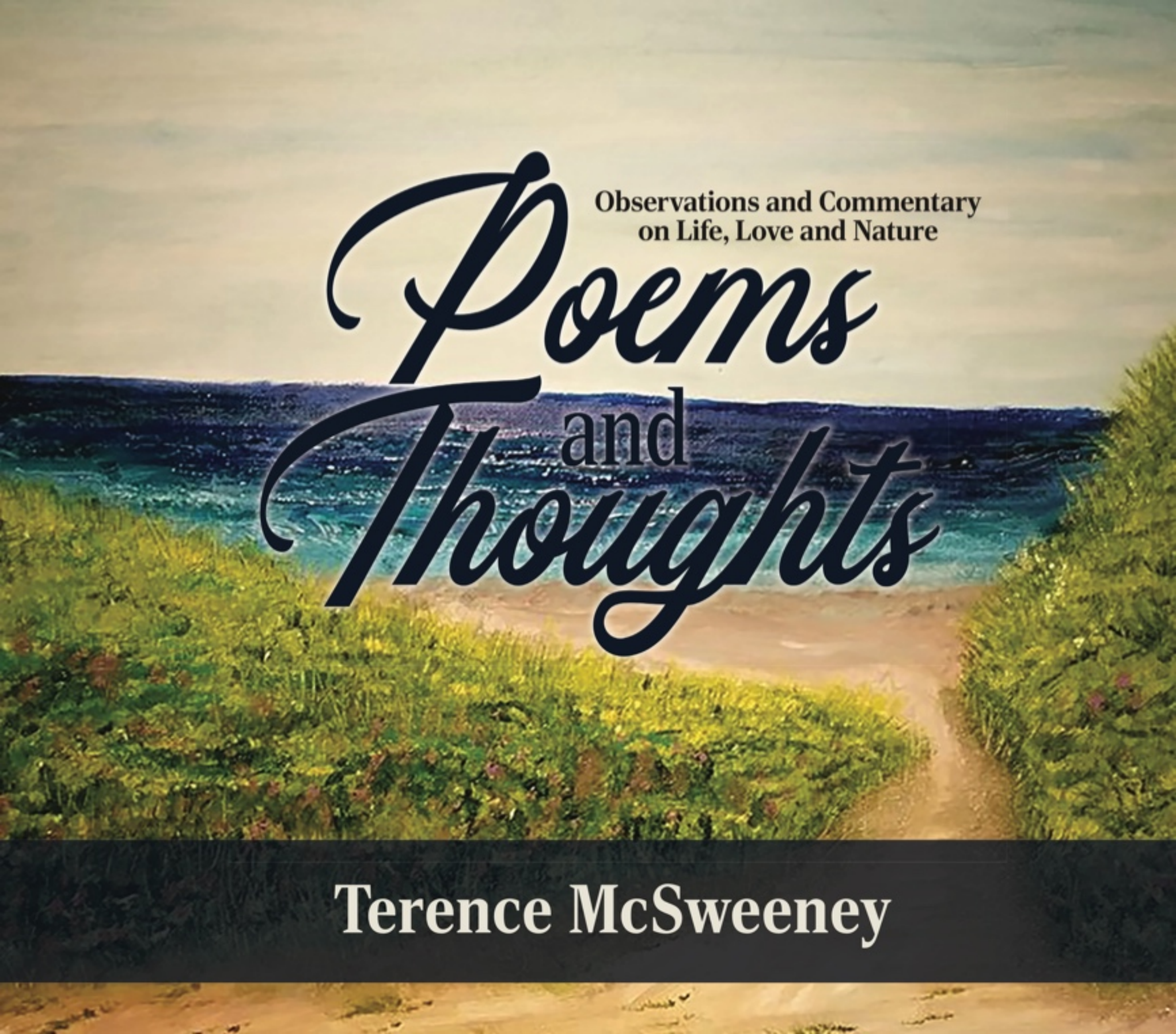
Poems and Thoughts

By Terence McSweeney

Order the book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/10970.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**

The background of the entire image is a detailed landscape painting. It depicts a sandy path that winds through lush green coastal vegetation, including various shrubs and grasses. The path leads towards a rocky shoreline where waves are breaking. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, suggesting a bright but slightly overcast day. The overall style is reminiscent of 19th-century landscape art.

Observations and Commentary
on Life, Love and Nature

Poems and Thoughts

Terence McSweeney

Copyright © 2020 Terence McSweeney

ISBN: 978-1-64718-420-9

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

McSweeney, Terence

Poems and Thoughts by Terence McSweeney

Library of Congress Control Number: 2020906341

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Bradenton, Florida.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2020

All paintings photographed in this book are original artwork of the author.



Honor

Honor

Are there any honorable men left in this world or
have they gone out of style like Beatle haircuts?
Have they examined the world for decency and found it lacking
riding out of town like the hero at the end of some B rated western?

What is honor anyways?

The word often brings to mind southern
gentlemen dueling at the break of dawn.

They stand with their pride at the end of their
sleeve intent on avenging some slight.

But is this honor?

This may be bravery or foolishness. perhaps vanity but honor?

Honor is a quiet frame of mind.

It does not require nor ask for bravado.

Honor is often not witnessed yet it is felt.

Honor is the father of decency.

It is as small as lending a hand to a stranger in need
or as brave as standing up for one's principles.

Honor can be elusive, but you know if you have it.

Honor is at times lonely, the good ole days.
Are there any honorable men left in the world?
Ask the old woman who barely earning enough to eat a
decent meal donates some of her portion to those needier.

Honor.

Witness the child who chooses to befriend another
who is shunned and abandoned by her peers.

Honor.

Examine the deeds of volunteers who despite their own lives
in turmoil or peril think only of those that need them.

Honor.

Are there honorable men left in this world?

They are your wives and daughters, your sons and brothers.

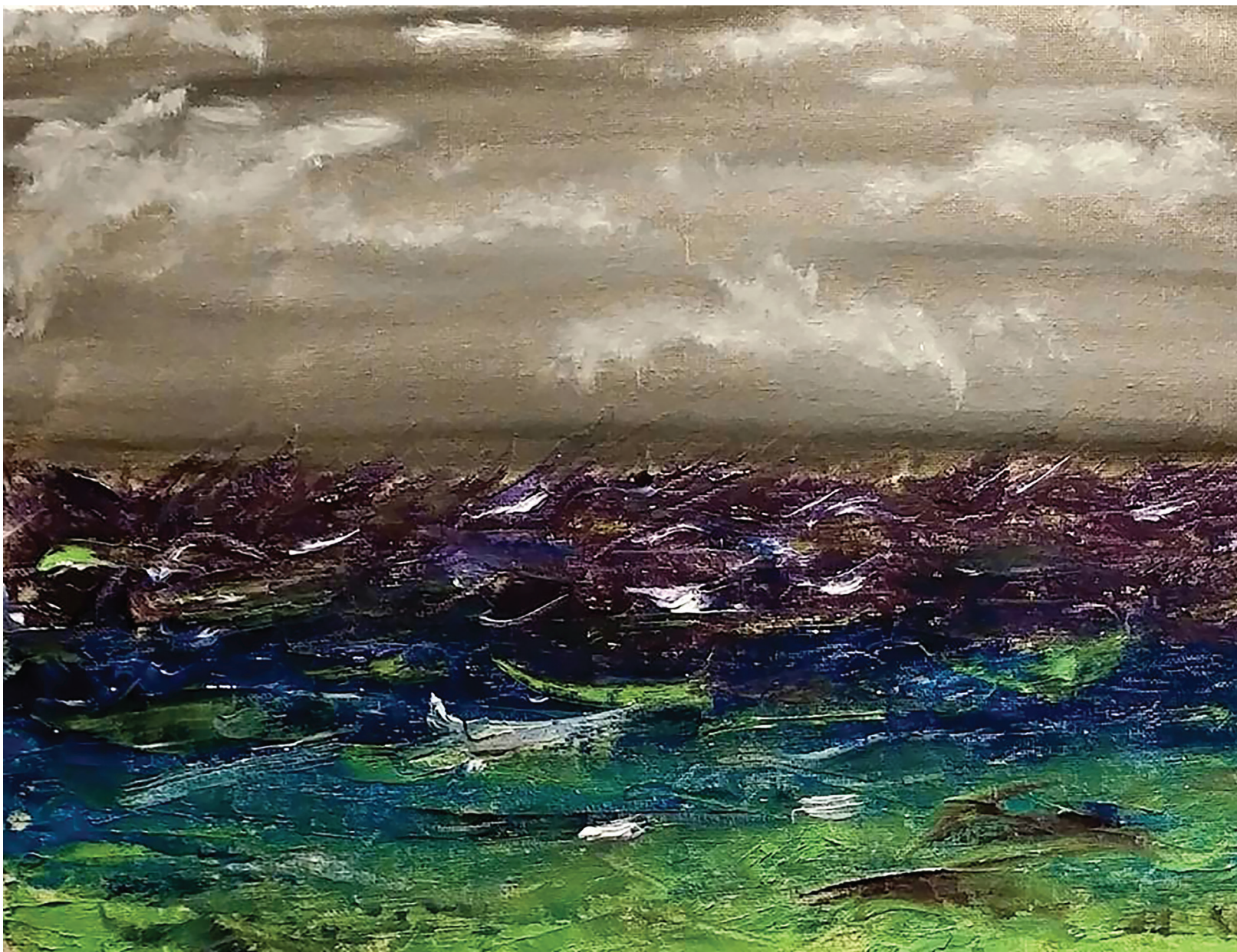
They are hard to see.

Honor is often invisible

They would have it no other way.

Where have all the honorable men gone?

They never left.



The Sea

The Sea

There is something about the sea that drives us to distraction.
From her depths we feel our primordial ancestry bellowing.

Come hither and remember.

Remember when you were weightless and
belonging to something bigger than yourself?

Remember how you drew your first breath
after leaving the womb of the ocean,

Leaving the caress of your caring mother to walk on solid ground.

Was it better or did you have second thoughts?

This is the attraction we have for the sea.

Each year as the earth warms, we long to return
as if we have been in hibernation.

As if we long to return to our ancient past.

But alas that is no longer possible.

We made our choice.

We chose the warmth of an earthen sun.

Still, we can't stay away.

We build our houses as close to the sea as possible.

We feed our addiction and breath in the salt.

We marvel at the colors and sounds.

We are fascinated by the creatures who took a
different path and remained with their mother.

And once in a while does it seem that the
dolphins taunt us for this choice?

Or perhaps they are just welcoming their sons and daughters' home.



Siren

Siren

Come here my lad and hear me now
For I have a tale to tell
Of sea and wind before the bow
When the innocence of childhood fell.

I was once like you, a native of land
Till I met the captain who
Showed me all that was at hand
And what traveling the sea could do.

We boarded a whaling ship.
Out of Gloucester she did run.
It was that day my fortune did flip
It was that day that the sirens won.

No more than four sunsets out
I heard the enchanting song.
What mischief was this about
That challenged my sense of right and wrong?

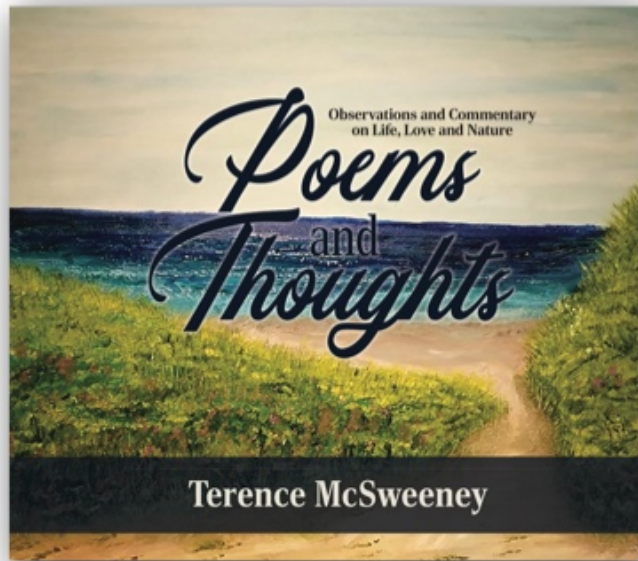
Such a beautiful sound left for Odysseus's ears
Surrounded and engulfed me now.
That I gave up all my fears
Intent on my adventurous vow.

Well days turned into years
And it is land that I yearn for now.
Perhaps I have conquered all my fears
With my time before the bow.

Still as I sit on my porch
And stare at the sea so grand
I sometimes yearn to retake the torch
And relinquish my grip on the land.

Alas it is not to be
As I remain sitting in my seat.
For though as they call to me
The sirens I may no longer meet.

So, lad I pass this onto you
As you sit by my side.
One day the songstresses may call you too
And it is the bow you will ride.



Poems and Thoughts is a collection of original art coupled with poems and commentary about life, love and nature. Each writing delves into the elegance and fury of the natural world and how we deal with our lives and values within it. The author challenges readers to see the beauty and excitement of a life grounded in nature and the human condition.

Poems and Thoughts

By Terence McSweeney

Order the book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/10970.html?s=pdf>

**or from your favorite neighborhood
or online bookstore.**