

# The Gift Giver

Lawrence Couch | *Poetry*  
Kevin Byrne | *Photography*

*Through the media of poetry and photography, the authors explore relationships as they relate to the family, self and others, social concerns, and spirituality. The book is offered in the hope of individual and societal healing.*

## **The Gift Giver**

By Lawrence Couch and Kevin Byrne

**Order the book from the publisher [BookLocker.com](http://BookLocker.com)**

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12984.html?s=pdf>

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

# The Gift Giver

Lawrence Couch | *Poetry*  
Kevin Byrne | *Photography*

Copyright © 2023 Lawrence Couch

Print ISBN: 978-1-958890-02-8

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-518-0

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.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

Printed on acid-free paper.

The characters and events in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, living or dead, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

BookLocker.com, Inc.  
2023

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication Data  
Couch, Lawrence  
The Gift Giver by Lawrence Couch  
Library of Congress Control Number: 2023908625

## Absence

Our eyes failed to meet  
we walked past each other  
only the darkness knew us  
our touch was only a gesture  
the phone never rang although  
I've been waiting since childhood  
were you searching the perfect time  
some moment after your death  
when the will was read, you could say  
see how much I loved you but my hand  
was unable to write, my tongue to speak.



## The Plan

Let's bleed the land of gold, silver, copper, coal  
export tropical fruits, sugar cane, coffee  
we'll rob them blind, they will never notice  
then we will import slaves for back breaking work  
pollute their rivers, their air, their lives, if they  
protest we'll call them criminals, imprison them  
the plan is perfect, what can go wrong, we'll  
grow rich and sip cool drinks along the beach.



## Night Watch

Tonight the autumn wind blows drops of rain  
downwards to crawl their slow and painful trek:  
tribes if nomadic, translucent insects  
that rub and stretch across the windowpane.  
On desolate shores, the sand shakes its mane  
at circling gulls while the wind whips the backs  
of forgotten beaches. There are shipwrecks  
beyond the silent frame of this curtain.

A gentle voice urges me, as I probe  
why hungry birds cry at the endless roar,  
to feel the rain and all else I can reach.  
With an empty bowl, and clad in a robe  
of autumn leaves, the wind begs at my door.  
He has travelled all night; he has come to teach.





# The Gift Giver

Lawrence Couch | *Poetry*  
Kevin Byrne | *Photography*

*Through the media of poetry and photography, the authors explore relationships as they relate to the family, self and others, social concerns, and spirituality. The book is offered in the hope of individual and societal healing.*

## **The Gift Giver**

By Lawrence Couch and Kevin Byrne

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

<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/12984.html?s=pdf>

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