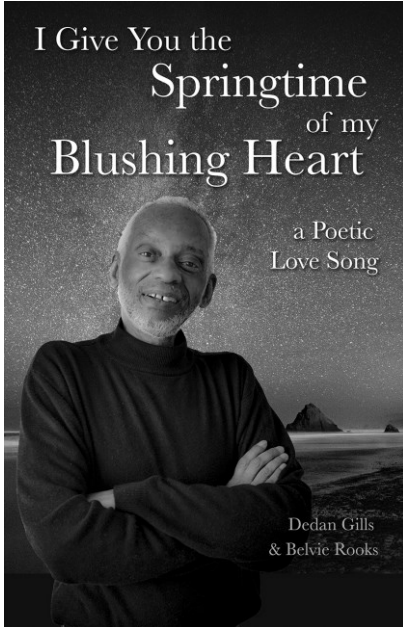


# *I Give You the Springtime of My Blushing Heart:*

## *A Poetic Love Song*

**Dedan Gills and Belvie Rooks**



How do you introduce something that always was and will never end? The story of Belvie and Dedan, their journey and their transformation, is as old as eternity and as new as now. As individuals, Dedan and Belvie were already leaning into the giving, the kindness, the love, but together they became an even greater force for good. There are moments so fleeting, so ineffable that like the wings of dragonflies, they shimmer, shudder and disappear. Belvie is wise enough to know that the memory of Dedan's being is a soul reality that cannot be grasped by any medium other than the poetic. His laughter, wisdom, and attentive presence set the example of how to soar while on this human journey. This story does not have the fairy-tale ending that I would have liked, but it does urge us to journey on, looking for the beauty hidden in our collective angst. The poetry dares us to persist, to dance rather than worry, and to love as if it is the last thing we will ever do. Even as I write these words, I can

see the twinkle in Dedan's eyes and hear the music that stirred his soul. Thank you, Belvie and Dedan, for sharing your love with us and for urging us to keep on keeping on!

—From the introduction by Reverend Dr. Barbara A. Holmes, author of *Race and the Cosmos: An Invitation to View the World Differently*

### **Prepublication Party**

**Monday, November 5, 2018, 5:00–6:30 PM**

**Terrace View 401 (South Bldg.), Toronto Convention Center**

**Visit us at Booth #202**

**20% PWR discount preorder forms available**

“A cosmic celebration of Being as well as a clear-eyed affirmation of love in a time of great crisis. Dedan Gills is a national treasure.”

—Brian Thomas Swimme, cosmologist; coauthor of *The Universe Story*

“Dedan is, very simply, the embodiment of love, peace, and respect for all life. He had an aura around him that few humans carry, and that aura provided a sense of being the presence of infinite love.”

—Kahontakwas Diane Longboat, educator, traditional healer, teacher, and founder of Soul of the Mother in Canada

"I'm honored by the invitation to pay homage to this contemplative and uplifting love story by my dear friends Dedan and Belvie. This lovely offering brings a Buddhist teaching to mind, that of The Two Winds, wisdom and compassion. I am touched by how this poetic love song embodies the liberated heart-mind, leaving us savoring not sentimentality but rather a deep dive into freedom—the immeasurable and boundless field of love."

—Ruth King, teacher in the International Insight Meditation tradition;  
author of *Mindful of Race: Transforming Racism From The Inside Out*

"These writings persist as a compound paean, not only to his Beloved, Belvie, but to the transpersonal realm where we collectively participate as souls via the spontaneous grace of nature that invokes us."

—Will Alexander, award-winning poet; author of *Sunrise in Armageddon*

"Where some people seek expertise in one subject, Dedan sought to understand the experience of living from every angle. He brought a signature sincerity, worth, and good humor to learning that allowed him to look with clear eyes at his own self and to see the dignity and potential in every human being. And he believed in the power of music, poetry, and the heart to create change."

—Matthew Davis, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Miller Ph.D.,  
Co-directors of Pseads Institute for Learning and Innovation

"Dedan Gills reminds us that a poet combusts meaning into passionate songs of whole and that poetry comes out of actually living the miracle of so many interfaces of truth and experience that they literally explode with grace in the heart as they stun with fresh insight and original beauty."

—James O'Dea, former president, Institute of Noetic Sciences; author, activist, and mystic

"It seems to me, that now, maybe more than ever, love truly lived is a most revolutionary act. Belvie and Dedan embodied and embody love in its truest most beautiful sense. For their love was and is big enough to hold all of it. There is the beauty of the small things and there are those times when the heart has to break open in order to hold the big things—it's the breaking open that creates the room to hold it all. Revolution means to return to origin. In this time where it feels so much has lost its way, allow the words within this book to guide you home, to the origin, to love."

—Julia "Butterfly" Hill, environmental activist; author of *The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, a Woman and the Struggle to Save the Redwoods*

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