



Umbilical Cord

**Hasan
Namir**

poems

PRAISE FOR *UMBILICAL CORD*

“Hasan Namir’s new collection expands on his poetic oeuvre, this time turning his lens to his own growing family. This book brings to light the connections that bind us, and the complex ways traditions of domesticity impact how we view our own families, and others. In *Umbilical Cord*, poems are about the complicated, intimate and expansive ways of growing a family, and the cords necessary, to connect and to cut, that build a life.”

—Dina Del Bucchia, author of *Don’t Tell Me What to Do*

“What does it mean to be a good father *and* a good son? Hasan Namir’s *Umbilical Cord* is an intimate exploration of a new family forming and transforming in and against the tug and pull of generational, cultural and societal expectations. Loss and acceptance coexist on every page, the urgency in the text often held in the quiet of the whitespace. Part memoir, part love letter, *Umbilical Cord* threads together an imperfect life with a forgiving stitch—each poem with an *I* on joy.”

—Chantal Gibson, author *How She Read*

“The poems in *Umbilical Cord* are a deeply personal, and often heartbreaking, account of two men in love who find a way to have the child they so badly want. This book brings to light the transformative experience of creating a family despite bigotry, and adversity and the promises of unconditional love every parent makes. When Hasan Namir tells his son, ‘I could scream and let the whole world know/You are our euphoria,’ we swallow these words as witnesses.”

—Adrienne Gruber, author of *Q & A*

“Umbilical Cord’s poems have a lucent quality and a supple rhythm that carries their tenderness to a reader. In an instant, the poems can become as raw, as immediate as touch. This work begins in heat and heartbeat, as a relationship and a family come into being, and it reflects the intimacies, anxieties, and devotions of love. At once personally revealing and focused outward on the challenges that queer families face, in *Umbilical Cord* love triumphs over intolerance, and the future, named ‘Malek,’ is nurtured by two devoted fathers.”

—Kai Kellough, author of *Dominoes at the Crossroads*

“Hasan Namir’s *Umbilical Cord* is an exceptionally beautiful love poem that lays bare the joy and complexity of family life. In this collection, Hasan continues to be a genius of confessional forms that breathe, sing, and cry.”

—Jordan Scott, author of *Night & Ox*

“Hasan Namir returns to poetry with *Umbilical Cord*—a collection at once an expansion of Namir’s interest in experimental and confessional forms, but also a diary and a baby book. Namir uses exciting poetic forms and his intimate, dynamic voice to expand our ideas of love, intimacy, and what a dream can look like in real life.”

—Matthew Walsh, author of *These are not the potatoes of my youth*

“Tender. Touching, this book-length poetic narrative reminds me of Neruda’s *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*: ‘Every day you play with the light of the universe.’ Namir’s love poems to his infant son and partner (interspersed with photos), remind me of Neruda’s poems interspersed with Picasso’s drawings. *Umbilical Cord*: two art forms; two fathers—the narrative of family made anew.”

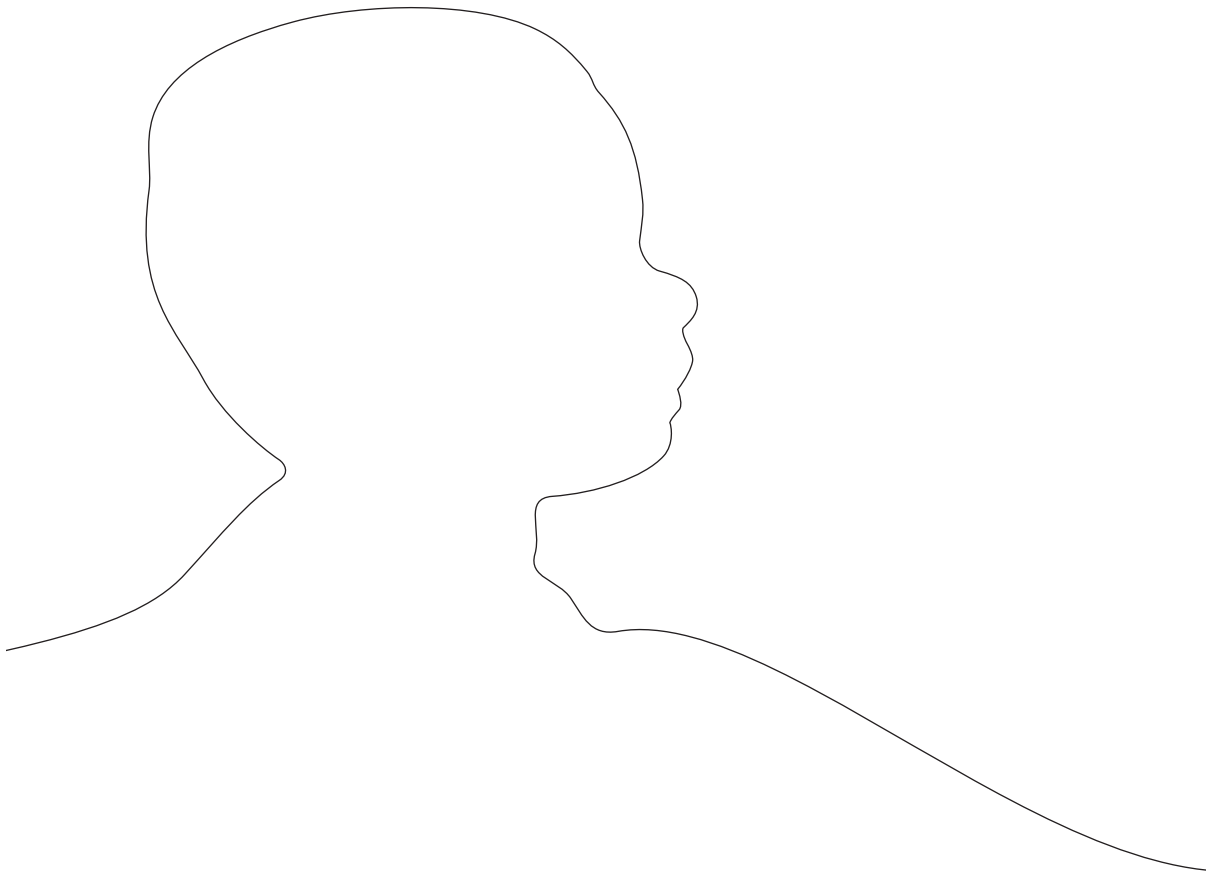
—Betsy Warland, author of *Bloodroot: Tracing the Untelling of Motherloss*, 2nd edition, 2021

“In Hasan Namir’s *Umbilical Cord*, we see a queer revisionism of family that shows how love can link us together like a cord, pushing against the heterocentrism of child-rearing. It’s poetry that takes a deep dive into all of the fears and anxieties of parenting as queer, but above all else, this book, at its core, is a love poem.”

—Daniel Zomparelli, author of *Everything Is Awful and You’re a Terrible Person*

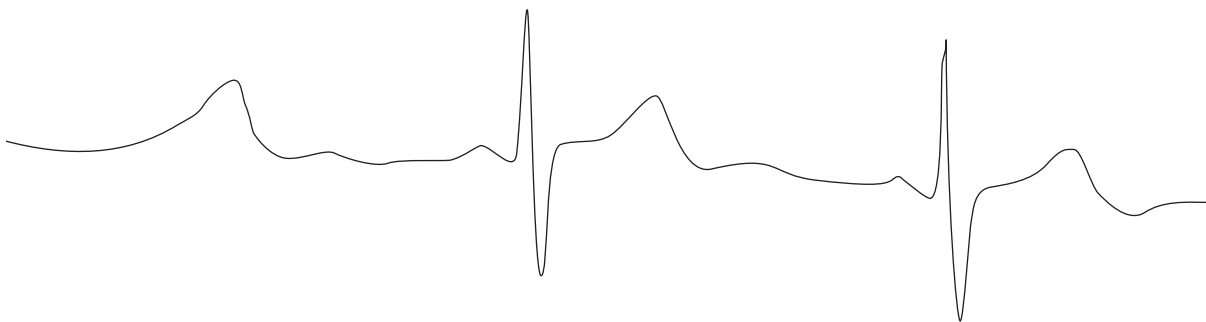
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Book*hug Press acknowledges that the land on which we operate is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples. We recognize the enduring presence of many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and are grateful for the opportunity to meet, work, and learn on this territory.

Book*hug Press



This book is dedicated
to all the dads, moms, and parents
and their unique journeys

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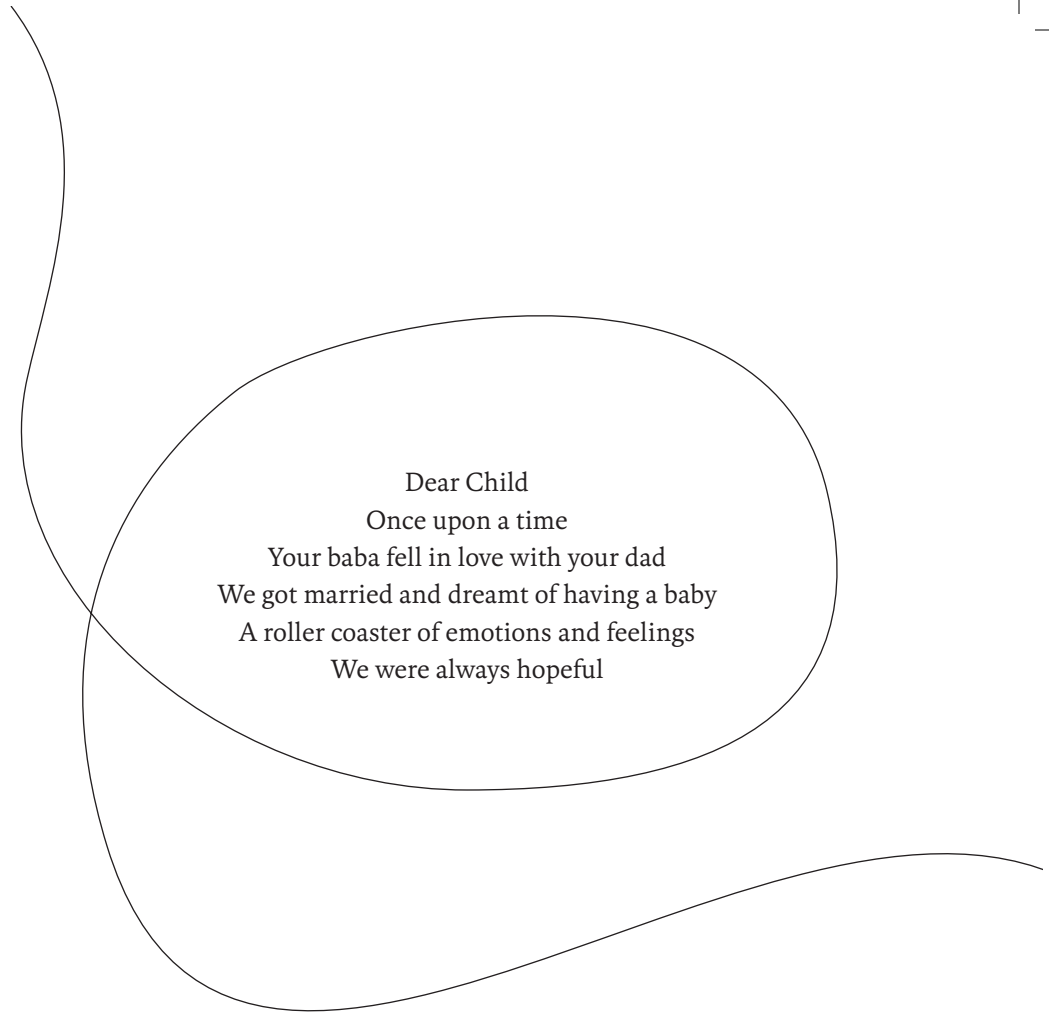
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Dear Child

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Dear Child
Once upon a time
Your baba fell in love with your dad
We got married and dreamt of having a baby
A roller coaster of emotions and feelings
We were always hopeful



It Takes Two

April 9, 2011:
The day we met
I saw my whole life through
Told you this a hundred times

Muscles popping
Grey vest
Twinkling eyes
Facial hair
Smiling tenderly

Don't call it love at first sight
Don't say you saw us too
Don't know how and why
Don't imagine us
Family

Your eyes to mine
That was it
You stepped back
I pulled forward

You and I
See-saw