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An Independent Literary Press
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New from Tupelo Press

NEW RELEASE: **VACATIONLAND BY ANDER MONSON**

Charlottesville, VA—February 14, 2005—Tupelo Press is honored to announce the publication of *Vacationland*, by Ander Monson. This striking new collection has won kudos even before its upcoming May publication date. Tupelo Press awarded the manuscript its Editors' Prize last year, recognizing the collection as an edgy, engaging, and sometimes funny book of elegies in step with the world's appetite for humor and grace.

The poems in *Vacationland* are set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, land of weather and long winters. His images: hotel pools full of refuse, wadded ATM receipts, cracked windshields in a land of endless snow, that all, ultimately, add benevolence and poise to life's darker moments. In Monson's world, the nearest city is a four-hour car ride and isolation is the backdrop for Monson's vital yet haunting imaginings. His words stay with you and penetrate the heart like a beam of sunlight breaking across the icy Lake Michigan shore.

"Ander's work is as daring as it is tender," says associate publisher, Susan Williamson. "These are poems that concern darker things most of us leave untouched. But readers will want to know him."

National Book Award finalist in poetry, Carl Phillips says, "From the wreckage of accident—snowmobiles, cars, bodies through the air and below the ice—Monson at once upends and refreshes the relationship between damage, loss, and memory, all to dizzying, inventive effect." Scheduled for release in May 2005, *Vacationland* slices through the veiled proclamations of happily-ever-after to reveal the bittersweet currency of life, and the loss and grief that go along with it.

With the ability to wield language like a master swordsman, Monson slices through veiled proclamations of happily-ever-after. He reveals the bittersweet currency of his own private vacationland, replete with loss and grief, dissecting what it means to be human with expert finesse and an enticingly experimental edge.

"Reading Ander Monson's work is like ripping the back off and looking into a radio able to receive and broadcast the longings of a new nation," says Bruce Smith. "The insides spark and shine with a dark brilliance; there's electricity, intricate circuitry, incalculable emotional physics. The poems receive, like Whitman's, 'the young man's heart's complaint' answering questions about grief and weather and love we didn't know we asked."

Pushcart nominee Ander Monson is also the author of the novel-in-stories *Other Electricities* (Sarabande Books, 2005). He has many awards to his credit, including the Annie Dillard Award in Creative Nonfiction, from *The Bellingham Review*, 2002 (judged by John D'Agata) and *Fugue magazine's Fiction Prize*, 2002, (judged by Rick Moody). His stories, essays, and poems have appeared in many literary magazines, such as *North American Review*, *Fence*, *FIELD*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Bellingham Review*, *Seneca Review*, and *Ploughshares*. He edits the magazine *DIAGRAM* and

the New Michigan Press, among other projects. He lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, with his wife, Megan, and his cats. Vacationland, due in April is his first full-length collection of poetry.

Tupelo Press is an independent literary press committed to giving voice to extraordinary new and established literary talent and makes books unparalleled in production values, look and feel. Awards include the 2004 and 2001 ForeWord Magazine prizes for the year's best book of poetry, a Norma Farber Award from the Poetry Society of America for the year's best first book of poetry in 2001, two finalists for the 2004 Norma Farber and a Peace Corps Writers Award, among others. Press offices are in Dorset, Vermont and Charlottesville, Virginia. Website: www.tupelopress.org.

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