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Press

Gene Hult, Publisher  
www.brightenpress.com  
info@brightenpress.com  
917-576-7530

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Creating Poetry Out of Romantic Cyber Fraud

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A new book of contemporary poetry was inspired by being deceived into romance on the mobile chat app Grindr by an ideal but entirely fictional persona. “Catfish and After” by Gene Hult is now available in paperback and Kindle editions, published by Brighten Press.

“In the throes of an exciting but bewildering love affair conducted entirely in intense, constant text with a supposedly sexy and smart deaf architect,” explains Gene Hult, “I started writing poetry about it when he repeatedly refused to meet. Following months of increasingly fraught but non-stop conversation, he ghosted me entirely, and I couldn't find him anywhere. I couldn't confirm a single thing he'd told me. When he finally returned to confess, it was with a story stranger and more disappointing, more heartbreaking, than anything I'd feared.”

Hult had been catfished by a fraud. The poetry he wrote during those months was whittled down to form the 30-page long poem “Catfish.”

“In the aftermath, I kept writing,” Hult continues, “detailing the psychic, emotional, creative, and romantic reconstruction in the wake of that shock of dashed hopes.” Those separate poems were collected in the cycle “After.”

The 118-page book “Catfish and After” tackles a pervasive problem in the increasingly commonplace experience of meeting people on dating apps, delving into the concerns of identity masked by technology. With heartfelt honesty, humor, and emotion, Hult describes his story and its consequences and repercussions in precise, Imagist detail.

Hult is the author of the previous poetry collection “Render,” as well as more than 125 books published for children and young adults. More information about “Catfish and After” is available at [brightenpress.com](http://brightenpress.com).

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