



Title	<i>A Million-Dollar Bill: Poems</i>
Author	Eric Paul Shaffer
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“Eric Paul Shaffer’s poems are always filled with clear light and fresh air. They restore deep attention and gratitude, a rebalancing between land and sky.”

— Naomi Shihab Nye, author of *Everything Comes Next*

The Lessons of Moonlight

Since we must celebrate death, let us
leave it to the children.

We’ll cradle bowls of coins and candy,
awaiting a knock at the door,

While they learn the lesson of moonlights
from fallen leaves and caramel apples—
to enter a darkening world
dressed as monsters,

to read fate in sidewalk cracks
through holes in plastic masks,

to seek treats with pretty threats
at the doors of strangers.



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A MILLION-DOLLAR BILL surveys our lives in America up close and personal from the first young summer taste in “Watermelon Seeds” to the hopeful hand-made creation of legal tender to purchase the necessities and accessories of the American Dream in the title poem.

Quirky, original, and astute, this expansive and engaging poetry collection by Eric Paul Shaffer entertains even as each poem presses readers to pause and think for a moment.

From love to death to parking the car, from rain to ice to sky to falling stars, the little insights that grow large in language are here for the reading. Best of all, with *A Million-Dollar Bill*, you can keep the change.



ERIC PAUL SHAFFER.
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Eric Paul Shaffer is the author of ten books of poetry. More than 600 of his poems have been published in the USA, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, England, Germany, India, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Scotland, Singapore, and Wales. A few of his poems have been translated into Esperanto, Farsi, or Spanish. He has also published a novel, two fiction chapbooks, and a volume of criticism.

Shaffer lives on O’ahu and teaches composition, literature, and creative writing at Honolulu Community College.