

## Remembering the Year 2020

For the author, writer and observer isolated as all of us were, the year's challenges quickly led to a pressing task to carry on a conversation of great urgency, though with pen and paper. Question was not only how to survive the pandemic itself but also how to cope with the changes it invoked, address the racism that surfaced, and deal with the realities and unrealities of an election taking place in an arena that moved between the real and virtual, the personal and the official, all the while seeking to separate truth from fiction, stay safe, and survive while holding on to her own equilibrium, frequently sending her, like so many, to turn to the natural world for sanctuary, refuge, and reprieve.

It seemed that poetry would be a particularly suitable conveyance for setting forth such a discourse and chronicle, poetry with its spontaneity, compactness, and figurative language to take readers there as spectators of recorded events and leave them to their own conclusions as they read *Fear and Promise, Remembering 2020*.

*Fear and Promise*  
*Remembering the Year 2020*

by Evelyn D. Klein

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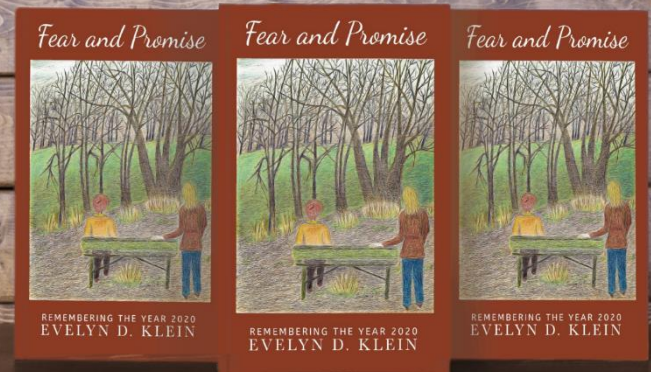
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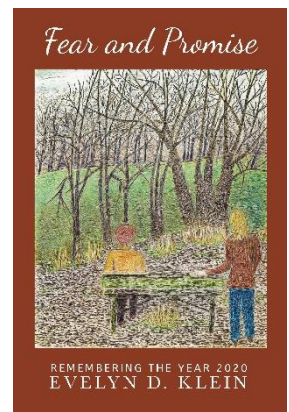
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**Evelyn D. Klein**

**Evelyn D. Klein**, author, educator, speaker, artist with a B.S. in Secondary Education and an M.S. in English, taught in the public schools, at Century College, and has been teaching artist at the Loft Literary Center. An independent scholar, she is editor of *The Minnesota Scholar* and publishes her newsletter, *The Write Connection*.

Klein is a prize winning poet whose poetry, essays and articles have appeared in numerous publications, including anthologies, the latest being *This was 2020*. She is author of three books of poetry, essays, and illustrations, *From Here Across the Bridge*, poetry with woodcut illustrations by Wolfgang Klein, and *Once upon a Neighborhood* and *Seasons of Desire*, both books of poetry, essays and her own illustrations and placed in the Minnesota Historical Society's permanent library collection.



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# Fear and Promise

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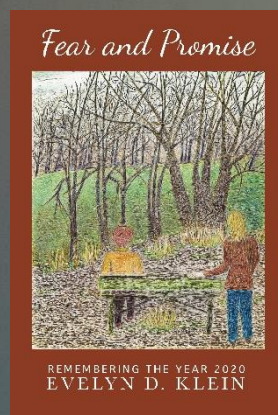
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## About the Author

Evelyn D. Klein, author, educator, speaker, artist with a B.S. in Secondary Education and an M.S. in English, taught in the public schools, at Century College, and has been teaching artist at the Loft Literary Center. An independent scholar, she is editor of *The Minnesota Scholar* and publishes her newsletter, *The Write Connection*.

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# *Fear and Promise*

EXCERPT FROM  
*Fear and Promise*  
*Remembering the Year 2020*  
By Evelyn Klein

## **Crossing**

This house sails  
on waves of pandemic  
to an uncertain destination,  
a vessel on the ocean of time.

The ship, flanked  
by distant, untouchable life,  
accompanied  
by speculations of the journey ahead  
to a land of the unknown,  
holds a steady course.

The ocean's curve  
to the horizon  
displays clouds gathering  
above trees on a distant  
island for which this ship  
sets course to wait out the storm.

How far to the nearest harbor?  
How long the voyage?





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