



# ANYTHING THAT HAPPENS

poems by **Cheryl Wilder**

A Tom Lombardo Poetry Selection

**Second Finalist**

Poetry Society of Virginia

2022 North American Poetry Book Award

**Honorable Mention**

2022 Brockman-Campbell Book Award

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Media contact: [cheryl@bornwilder.com](mailto:cheryl@bornwilder.com)

Order: [press53.com/cheryl-wilder](http://press53.com/cheryl-wilder)

Press 53

P.O. Box 20314

Winston-Salem, NC 27130

336-770-5353 | [kevin@press53.com](mailto:kevin@press53.com)



At the age of twenty, Cheryl Wilder got behind the wheel when she was too drunk to drive. She emerged from the car physically whole. Her passenger, a close friend, woke up from a coma four months later with a life-changing brain injury. *Anything That Happens* follows Wilder's journey from a young adult consumed by shame and self-hatred to a woman she can live with... and even respect.

"The poems in *Anything that Happens* puzzle together the emotions of life, fitting words into sharp, emotive slivers that pierce a heart with empathy." —Susan E. Morris, Independent Book Review

"[*Anything That Happens* is] a potent collection that invites readers to walk in Cheryl's shoes. And, it provides traction for assessing and moving beyond the poignant and powerful moments of quiet desperation." —D. Donovan, Senior Reviewer, Midwest Book Review

"*Anything That Happens* is a mature poetic inquiry into the ways early trauma can reverberate through the whole of a life—relationships, family, one's sense of self. The poems are candid, sharp-edged, and very well rendered." —Mark Cox, author of *Readiness: Prose Poems*



Cheryl Wilder is the author of the chapbook *What Binds Us* (Finishing Line Press, 2017). Her work appears in the anthology *Crossing the Rift: North Carolina Poets on 9/11 & Its Aftermath*, *Barely South Review*, and *Architects + Artisans*, among other publications. Cheryl has served as writer-in-residence at *SistaWRITE* and was granted residency at Sundress Academy for the Arts. Co-founder and editor of *Waterwheel Review*, she earned her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives with her family in Haw River, NC.