

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Christopher Madden

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## Woodhall Press Announces the Publication of

## Some Months in 1968 by Baron Wormser

## Early praise for the novel:

Baron Wormser invites readers to move in with the Brownson family of Baltimore for the first six months of 1968 as they struggle to understand what this country is with its Vietnam War, its profound racism, its assassinations, its hypocrisy and inability to know itself. What we learn is enlightening, infuriating, funny, endearing and deeply moving. The Brownsons, without irony or cynicism, are intent on living moral and loving lives in an immoral time in an immoral country. They become some of your best and trusted friends.

--- Robert Shetterly, Portraits of Racial Justice: Americans Who Tell the Truth



Some Months in 1968

by Baron Wormser

**Publisher: Woodhall Press** 

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"The bombs in Vietnam explode at home; they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

During the course of his career, poet-writer Baron Wormser has investigated the hearts of many matters. In *Some Months in 1968*, he portrays the Brownsons, a family of five living in suburban Baltimore, who experience one of the most tumultuous moments in American history. Using elements of flash-fiction, biography, poetry, history and essay, he reaches into the immediacy of daily breakfasts and the minds of Lyndon Baines Johnson and Ho Chi Minh, into the consumer culture of the United States and the stirrings of political and spiritual conscience, into music and raw violence. As a novel, *Some Months in 1968*, offers a vision of a society riven by conflicts. The relevance of those months, as this remarkable novel makes plain, remains.

More than anyone I've read in recent years, Baron Wormser has the ability to see into the depths of the American soul with its greed, its violence, and the racial oppression that its founding depended upon. In his new novel, *Some Months in 1968*, this acute insight is set within the turbulence of an American family trying to navigate a year of violence and a son's attempts to claim himself as a conscientious objector. Mixing their dialogue with short powerful descriptions of Ho Chi Minh and Lyndon B. Johnson, Wormser challenges the conventions of the novel to produce an inventive intersection of history, politics, family and a young man's quest for God and conscience in an America where both feel increasingly absent. By the end, Wormser's keen view of history almost feels prophetic, as inside of those months, our present time looms uncomfortably large.

Karen Osborn, author of Centerville

The chapters in *Some Months in 1968* fit together like the lines in a poem. Imagine a story about the ins and outs of a suburban white family in that crisis year, one that's equally about coming-of-age angst and yearnings and about confronting or avoiding the issues of inequality, racism, the war, and the draft. Imagine that the writer also gets you with depth and sympathy into the opposing minds and worldviews of Lyndon Johnson and Ho Chi Minh. Oh, and there's a dad seeking a church, a mom seeking to understand history, and kids exploring sex, drugs, and/or rock'n'roll. All in one package, a few months of life, and an addictive read.

— Dick Cluster, author of Obligations of the Bone and History of Havana.

## **About the Author:**

Baron Wormser is the author of nine books of poetry, a poetry chapbook, and is the co-author of two books about teaching poetry. His memoir, The Road Washes Out in Spring, is an account of finding poetry while living off the grid for over two decades in Maine. His fiction includes a book of short stories and three novels including 2020's Songs From a Voice from Woodhall Press. His essay collection Legends of the Slow Explosion includes essays that appeared in *Best American Essays 2014* and 2018. He taught for twelve years in the Fairfield University MFA program and is the Founding Director of the Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching in Franconia, New Hampshire. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Wormser served as poet laureate of Maine from 2000 to 2005 and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Maine at Augusta in 2005.



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