

# ON THE TIGHTROPE

Poems by

Robert H. Deluty



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*Being on the tightrope is living; everything else is waiting.*

Karl Wallenda

*You cannot swim for new horizons until you have courage  
to lose sight of the shore.*

William Faulkner



a boy questioning  
whether God was too strict  
with Lot's wife

a girl inquiring  
whether you can be possessed  
angelically

first day at Yale . . .  
a freshman totaling  
the dean's *BMW*

his child responding  
to *My Dad's smarter than yours*  
with *Who isn't?*

meditating prof  
repeating his mantra,  
*Tenured*

## The Linguist

Professor Bernhard Schneider  
Informs the unsuspecting sophomore  
That the German daily newspaper,  
*Frankfurter Rundschau*,  
Has as its English translation  
*Kosher Hot Dog*



heading to war  
the Marine hearing his Mom  
say *Be safe, have fun*

teaching his children  
to despise Yankee fans  
who hate New York

high school bio class . . .  
a freshman inquiring why  
there's no eye hair

knowing synonyms  
for *naked*, a fifth grader  
writes *unclothed truth*

knowing synonyms  
for bare, a sixth grader  
writes *nude-chested*

Irish convert  
changing her name from  
Cohan to Cohen

French convert  
changing his name from  
Lavigne to Levine

potato farmer  
having lunch with his grandsons  
Spud, Chip and Tot

threatening self-harm  
unless her prof changes  
the  $F$  to a  $D$

threatening to sue  
unless his prof changes  
the  $B$  to an  $A$

child psychologist  
screaming at his toddler  
to grow up

walking down the aisle,  
the bride's father asking her  
*You're sure he's the one?*

at the altar  
the groom telling himself  
*She's not her mother*

Vail second grader  
assuming that MCs are  
mountain climbers

suggesting his wife  
change her computer password  
from *sexybabe*

a cantor thanking  
The Black Eyed Peas for  
their *L'Chaim!*

her child regarding  
burping and farting as  
communication

her teen regarding  
grunting and glaring as  
dialogue

her spouse regarding  
sighing and shrugging as  
conversation

depressed patient  
noting *I'm way too tired*  
*to kill myself*

*Bacon is great . . .*  
the Jewish prof adding  
*I meant Roger*

Denver Dads checking  
their children's Halloween bags  
for pot-laced treats

enraged at his gaffe,  
Benjamin Schmukler's boss  
stressing the *Schmuk*

Grandpa entering  
his seventy-seventh year  
holding a grudge

TSA agent  
at Dulles confiscating  
a bag of eels

eight-year-old boy  
cleaning his muddy dress shoes  
with *Windex*

eight-year-old girl  
scouring her stained silk shirt  
with *Ajax*

their professor  
disparaging novels  
he's never read

tense, asthmatic teen  
claiming she's great at wheezing,  
whining, worrying

dour, allergic man  
claiming he's great at sneezing,  
snapping, sneering

asked the meaning  
of *paradigm*, her student  
replies *Twenty cents*

their uncle noting  
he'd opt for polygamy  
if not for in-laws

a ten year-old  
believing *goad* and *went*  
are synonyms

horse trainer  
auditioning for  
a bit part

sightless girl  
reading *Love is blind*  
in braille

feeling a chill  
as the loan shark inquires  
*Is that a new car?*

feeling panic  
as the loan shark inquires  
*How's your family?*

her husband  
viewing walking while talking  
as multi-tasking

tennis fan  
calling Desi Arnaz Jr.  
a *Ball boy*

*I love you . . .*  
her ten year-old replying  
*Big f\*\*\*in' deal*



visiting Spain . . .  
Vermont boy asks if the flan  
is in maple syrup

third grader dreaming  
his teachers undress to show  
their horns and pitchforks

informing their child  
passion and self-confidence  
don't erase dumbness

his Aunt Sylvia  
declaring he reminds her  
of Richard Nixon

her Uncle Edgar  
noting she's a dead ringer  
for Mother Hubbard

a girl declining  
the hamburger, noting  
*Too slippery*

sixth grader inquires  
whether *algebra* is short  
for *algebrassiere*

after cracking  
the vase, telling her Grandpa  
*You look real handsome*

after breaking  
the lamp, asking his Grandma  
*Are you twenty-nine?*

calling the neighbor  
who cleans gutters, rakes leaves  
*a jack o' fall trades*

in a three-piece suit,  
interviewing for a job  
at a Bronx *Arby's*

the purse-snatcher  
not expecting the elder  
to bite him

two surgeons  
categorizing themselves  
as a *paradox*

failing to remove  
his infant's pacifier  
before feeding her

a teenager  
wondering what part of speech  
is *Zup*

defining  
for his uncle and aunt  
the noun *brickberry*

defining  
for his grandmother  
the adjective *dope*

defining  
for his grandfather  
the verb *pluto*

terrified mastiff  
bolting from a baby bird  
running on the road

nine-year-old wiseguy  
pronouncing the doomed ship's name  
*TIT-an-ic*

post-suicide . . .  
each of six friends taking blame  
for his death

post-suicide . . .  
his Mom, Dad, spouse, siblings  
blaming each other

young latte lover,  
perusing *Moby-Dick*,  
spotting *Starbuck*

old *Dragnet* fan,  
reading *Robinson Crusoe*,  
finding *Friday*

*Write a long sentence . . .*  
her fourth grade student  
penning *Life*

asking his grandson  
whether he feels like a jerk  
sporting neck tattoos

asking his Granddad  
whether he feels like a putz  
wearing a toupee

their child renaming  
the croc-infested waters  
*the river with teeth*

med students learning  
another word for *intern*  
is *isolate*

after wedding  
Victor Hamm, her friends calling  
Delilah, *Deli*

the defendant  
replies *No one can do that!*  
to *Tell the whole truth*

history class . . .  
young Heather Goering learning  
about World War II

their father  
referring to a hen's egg  
as *boneless chicken*

Great-Aunt Winnie  
convincing her niece it's short  
for Winnebago

Great-Uncle Al  
convincing his niece it's short  
for Alcatraz

the elder  
informing his grandsons why  
men should not cuddle

Hartford spice merchant  
loving that folks in his state  
are called Nutmeggers

fifth grade boy,  
asked Wyoming's capital,  
writing *Shy Anne*

fifth grade girl,  
asked New Hampshire's capital,  
writing *Conquered*

eyeing a group pic,  
the liberal prof fuming  
she's on the far right



high school graduate,  
uncertain about her goals,  
selling flip-flops

teen driver doing  
eighty on the expressway  
while changing his shirt

teaching  
his young grandchild to say  
*I love you the most*

teaching  
her young grandchild to say  
*Pop-Pop's a nitwit*

registering  
for on-line dating, hoping  
for love at first site

old Bronx communist  
dreaming of an apartment  
in Havana

in a pink tutu,  
the third-grade ballerina  
singing a rap song

after learning  
*civil* means *polite*, a boy asks  
*Which wars are civil?*

math professor  
missing class, believing  
it's Saturday

high school teacher  
referring to his shop course  
as *cutting class*

a Muslim girl  
questioning if it's a sin  
to eat hot cross buns

pre-Easter, third grade . . .  
two Jews paint Stars of David  
on their assigned eggs

a thief,  
wearing a Zorro mask,  
robbing a *Chili's*

an arsonist,  
dressed as Colonel Sanders,  
torching a *Wendy's*

*This F is unfair . . .*  
his English prof responding  
*There's no lower grade*

sleepless, pondering  
that the praying mantis  
has only one ear

Theodora Behr  
despising her nickname  
Teddy

holding a *Twinkie*,  
the judge sipping through a straw  
the cream filling

her right-wing Dad  
regarding Vassar and Smith  
as expensive cults

his leftist Mom  
equating BYU with  
insane asylums

two linguists fighting  
over which sounds better:  
*pleaded* or *pled*

two children fighting  
over which sounds better:  
*retch* or *puke*

requesting  
that their teenager shout  
*Fudge you* instead

observing  
a *Ferrari* pulling up  
to a *Taco Bell*

dermatologist  
wishing her name were not  
Claire Issel

English teacher  
referring to the past tense  
as *back talk*

realizing  
irony does not work when  
Mom is upset

realizing  
sarcasm does not work when  
Dad is irate

Pesach, dining out . . .  
Irv Weiss asking for matzo  
with his shrimp scampi

their Mom asserting  
Cher should replace Jackson  
on the twenty

young professor  
reading the student's eval:  
*Too kind to morons*

old professor  
reading the student's eval:  
*Needs to whiten teeth*

first date . . . pondering  
whether he should mention  
his twelve years in stir

fast day . . .  
a half-Muslim man eating  
fat-free ice cream

centenarian  
daydreaming of marrying  
a Kardashian





*Glory be to God for dappled things . . .*

*All things counter, original, spare, strange . . .*

Gerard Manley Hopkins



Aunt Fran explaining  
why country music is worse  
than North Korea

a seventh grader  
using his rented tuba  
to unnerve roaches

a ninth grader  
employing borrowed cymbals  
to wake her brother

*Greatest invention? . . .*  
their grandmother responding  
*Deodorant*

*Greatest discovery? . . .*  
their grandfather answering  
*Sophia Loren*

plumber Leroy Key  
pleading with his co-workers  
not to call him Lee

Quaker Thomas Gunn  
imploring that his colleagues  
not call him Tommy

enraged dog owner  
hearing her Labradoodle  
called a mutt

Cleveland cabbie  
noting that, in his homeland,  
he was a judge

Detroit beautician  
noting that, in her homeland,  
she was a slave

*Israel's leader? . . .*

eighth grade test-taker writing

*Nathan Yahoo*

DC woman

scoffing at using AC

before July

her husband asking

the sommelier which wines

go best with *Fritos*

a third grader

insisting there ought to be

a twelve-dollar bill

college dean

defining *tenure* as

*fire safety*

ESL student  
questioning whether *2nd*  
is pronounced *toond*

immodest butcher  
asserting that his wisecracks  
are all *prime ribs*

Jewish heretic  
hating that he loves the taste  
of matzo balls

classics prof  
telling his tailor a pun  
with Euripides

astronomy prof  
telling his doctor a joke  
with Uranus

their Uncle Stanley  
christening his dog Stella  
just to shout her name

third grade spelling bee . . .  
hoping winning will earn him  
young Sara's love

a city boy  
asking if bronco busting  
is *equestrian*

a city girl  
asking if horseshoe pitching  
is *equestrian*

ninety year-old's wake . . .  
her older brother crying  
*She died so young*

## Live (Long) and Learn

Examining the list of support groups  
Available at the retirement community  
She is considering, the octogenarian  
Pooh-poohs the groups dealing with  
Arthritis, osteoporosis, depression,  
Parkinson's disease, diabetes,  
Chemotherapy, breathing problems,  
Anxiety, and macular degeneration,  
But shouts *Yes!* upon spotting the title  
*How to manage your adult children*



a figure skater,  
two linebackers discussing  
concussions

upon waking,  
an agnostic thanking God  
it's Friday

Ida Katz learning  
her twin grandsons were named  
Miguel and Pablo

Xu Zheng learning  
his twin granddaughters were named  
Harper and Aubrey

entering *Denny's*  
wearing a shirt declaring  
*I Hate Kale*

Monday, dawn . . . donning  
his suit, not telling his spouse  
he was fired last week

their son displaying  
the onion he had tattooed  
under his armpit

considering  
donating five bucks to *CARE*  
after the bank heist

considering  
donating ten bucks to *CARE*  
after the church heist

before the visit,  
their three year-old practicing  
*Your home is lovely*

*Your best features? . . .*

young Mom of four responding

*Reflexes, hips*

two priests

noting their favorite scenes

from *Goodfellas*

two rabbis

debating which is better:

*Scarface* or *Bugsy*

two reverends

arguing the merits of

Tarantino's films

after marrying

John Ching, Karen Bell opting

not to hyphenate

on his CV  
noting a Ph.D.  
in *Linguistics*

southern Jewish chef  
preparing knishes filled  
with chitterlings

characterizing  
her atheistic husband  
as *beyond belief*

an old man wishing  
more folks would call him  
*Friend* instead of *Sir*

their teen insisting  
on celebrating the day  
he was conceived

1st meeting, 2nd hour . . .  
still waiting for her date  
to make eye contact

1st meeting, 3rd hour . . .  
still waiting for his date  
to crack a smile

Baltimore riot . . .  
a drug store looter stealing  
*Odor-Eaters*

dying Bronx boy  
hoping to learn Mandarin  
in the hereafter

Provincetown baker  
refusing to prepare cakes  
for straight weddings

watching Grandpa  
eating hot soup while swinging  
in a hammock

college men's room . . .  
a freshman soaking his feet  
in two sinks

Yale geographers  
proclaiming that Texans have  
the coolest shaped state

Japanese broker  
placing in the shredder  
origami bears

*Your first memory?* . . .  
his new patient replying  
*Ma biting Pa's leg*

gag writer Bev King  
presenting her twin sons  
Joe and Rollie

butcher Ed Loney  
introducing his daughter  
Belle

two depressed teens  
looking into becoming  
land mine removers

ruddy Irish twins  
seething they're not considered  
*persons of color*

their father fearing,  
in heaven, everyone knows  
about his lies

the old prof praying,  
when he snores mid-meeting,  
it's very softly

a college senior  
explaining her absences:  
*Parking's tough*

Sunday School student  
questioning which vegetables  
are served in hell

linguists debating  
the worst surname for a nurse:  
Paine, Schott or Hertz

linguists debating  
the best surname for a judge:  
Stern, Wise or Grace



*Describe your toddler . . .*

the famed scholar responding

*Elating, humbling*

two drunken profs,

from the library's top floor,

dropping honeydews

cringing

as her Dad sends back his steak

for the fourth time

shrinking away

as his Mom tries to redeem

expired coupons

Valentine's Day . . .

responding *Yeah, I know*

to *I adore you*

Met fan/Physics prof  
explaining to his students  
a screwball's path

Met fan/English prof  
explaining to her students  
the meaning of *balk*

Met fan/Psych prof  
explaining to his students  
a beanball's effects

the old barber,  
seeking exotic seashells,  
combing the shore

his grandkids watching  
the death camp survivor  
suffer in silence

the coal miner  
longing to switch jobs  
with a lumberjack

the lumberjack  
longing to switch jobs  
with a pastry chef

spotting the name tag,  
*John Putts*, Esther Cohn whispers  
to the man *Poor dear*

instructing  
his grandkids why vengeance  
is sweeter than love

the doctor asking  
her elderly patient  
about his *owie*

a Scottish teen  
inquiring whether burqas  
come in plaid

a Brazilian teen  
inquiring whether burqas  
can be see-through

table tennis champ  
glaring at the reporter  
who said *ping-pong*

a Filipino  
noting Imelda Marcos  
was *very well-heeled*

pharmacist Joan Quill  
christening her first-born  
Dae

after dinner

Gramps showing the kids how  
to smoke a pipe

after dinner

Great-Gramps showing the kids how  
to drink slivovitz

noting his birthday,  
March 1st '59, is apt:  
*I'm totally odd*

an eighth grader  
inquiring who invented  
the metaphor

his ex describing  
her *very mixed feelings*:  
*anger, rage, fury*

telling Grandma  
her spider veins make  
a beautiful web

their next-door neighbor  
complaining that his mailbox  
is haunted

a Georgian trashing  
Colorado, Wyoming:  
*Boring rectangles*

on his deathbed  
Uncle Fred shaking hands  
with a joy buzzer

on her deathbed  
Aunt Martha offering drinks  
in dribble glasses

educating

Great-Grandma Rose what's meant

by *gender fluid*

educating

Great-Grandpa Saul what's meant

by an *ampallang*

her blind date

boasting he's an accountant

for the Mafia

high school freshman

describing semi-colons

as *strong commas*

Princeton prof betting

da Vinci would not receive

tenure today

at the multiplex  
her husband snoring during  
*Endless Love*

at the multiplex  
his wife taking notes during  
*Fifty Shades of Grey*

Aunts Bev and Meg  
racing down the sidewalk  
on tricycles

Uncles Vic and Ed  
racing down the sidewalk  
on pogo sticks

her fearful patient  
cancelling, choosing tanning  
over therapy



rookie Phils pitcher  
hitting his first home run . . .  
inside the park

rookie Cubs catcher  
slugging his first triple,  
missing two bases

their son describing  
his openly gay friends  
as *the out crowd*

fifth grade spelling bee . . .  
the bartender's son winning  
with *chamomile*

sixth grade spelling bee . . .  
the mohel's daughter winning  
with *pancetta*



*Enough of Science and of Art;  
Close up those barren leaves.  
Come forth and bring with you a heart  
That watches and receives.*

William Wordsworth



drivers gawking  
at the highway's rightmost lane . . .  
nineteen bobbleheads

Grandpa, grandson  
playing Crazy Eights,  
each cheating

mid-chemo . . .  
a cancer patient wishing  
for a heart attack

*Capital of Chad?* . . .  
the scholar, drawing a blank,  
fearing Alzheimer's

fisherman's wife  
looking into purchasing  
a lie detector

scowling at her date  
for holding the door open,  
saying *Ladies first*

oil-covered beach . . .  
tourists spotting hazmat suits,  
no bikinis

pious Dodger coach  
defining the word *evil*  
as *a base path*

honeymoon's first night . . .  
inquiring why he's wearing  
a top hat to bed

shot by police  
as she runs toward the Pope,  
seeking a selfie

shy, obsessive man  
wishing he were less anal,  
more oral

the farmers telling  
their new neighbor from Chile  
they produce produce

Olympic trials . . .  
cocky swimmer refusing  
to shave his beard

obese Uncle Mel  
sporting a tight tee stating  
*End World Hunger*

zaftig Aunt Irma  
sporting a tight tee stating  
*Squeezably Soft*

adopted Thai child  
learning Yiddish to schmooze  
with Great-Grandma

their six year-old  
noting she is too old  
to watch cartoons

their eight year-old  
noting he is too young  
to eat lima beans

the dean responding  
to the gift of her new book,  
*Thanks for the update*

old vet tearing up  
as she holds in her hands  
a tar-soaked seabird



at the county fair  
the brain surgeon showing off  
his *Harley* chopper

at the beach  
the trial judge showing off  
her abs and tattoos

Mob attorney  
viewing himself as a mensch  
among sadists

dropping his girlfriend  
upon learning she loves  
head cheese

dropping her boyfriend  
upon learning he adores  
Paris Hilton

three young musicians  
discussing whom they hate most:  
Bach, Brahms, or Bjork

1:00 a.m. . . .  
getting a text from her teen:  
*I'm fine, Car isn't*

2:00 a.m. . . .  
getting a call from his child:  
*The cops want you here*

college freshman  
confusing *Rosetta Stone*  
with *Roseanne Barr*

discovering  
the world-renowned French vintner  
was born in Newark

an OCD man,  
in church, thanking God  
for *Purell*

a depressed woman,  
in church, thanking God  
for *30 Rock*

pale, sleepless parent  
overhearing friends call her  
a *mombie*

wishing his children  
would do the right things  
not out of fear

her husband  
hearing *Close the door, Bill*  
as *You're adorable*

their teenaged son  
daydreaming of becoming  
a warlord/poet

frat hazing . . .  
forcing the Tulane freshman  
to watch *Barney*

frat hazing . . .  
forcing the Penn State freshman  
to sing *Born Free*

frat hazing . . .  
forcing the Ole Miss freshman  
to read *Beowulf*

PC addict's Dad  
struggling to reduce  
*internet excess*

bulldog breeder  
insisting his kids attend  
Yale, Drake or Butler

his four-year-old son  
attempting to eat oatmeal  
through a straw

her four-year-old son  
attempting to eat *Jell-O*  
with chopsticks

an usher palming  
a wrinkled twenty from  
the collection plate

rundown diner . . .  
Mom requesting a burger  
with melted Gruyere

asking Uncle Sid  
why he changed his last name  
from Fuchs to Fox

asking Uncle Sol  
why he changed his last name  
from Dickman to Smith

their daughter  
describing her new boyfriend  
as *somewhat perfect*

three-year-old boy  
offering to kiss Gran's scar  
post knee surgery

European prof  
bidding farewell with  
*Ciao, mi bom ami*

four kindergartners  
waging a make-believe war  
sporting pots and pails

two first graders  
waging a make-believe duel  
with bathroom plungers

Rockville pacifist  
seething that Maryland  
is shaped like a gun

Rabbi Blume asking  
how can Ralph Lauren  
be Jewish

Rabbi Klein asking  
how can Bruce Springsteen  
**not** be Jewish

a dying boy  
hoping he'll come back  
as a shark

a dying girl  
praying she'll come back  
as herself, but well

umps warning players  
not to speak Spanish: *Can't tell*  
*if you're cursing*

Sunday School pupil  
inquiring why Bible folks  
talked so fancy

a Frenchman laughing  
hearing the Virginian say  
his name is Trey Gross



Guantanamo Bay . . .  
the young prison guard reading  
Kafka's *The Trial*

Leavenworth . . .  
the old warden listening  
to *Jailhouse Rock*

at *Dunkin' Donuts*  
his grandchild opting for  
*Barbarian Kreme*

Professor Li  
presenting his twins  
Lee and Leigh

slapstick fan  
introducing his daughters  
Mo, Lori, Carly

spotting a hearse,  
with a casket inside,  
parked at an *IHOP*

eyeing a gymnast  
double backflip into  
a pair of trousers

her date revealing  
the names he has given  
his biceps

imagining  
her palsied three year-old  
downhill skiing

imagining  
his gravely ill six year-old  
in a wedding dress

acclaimed scientist  
dining alone at *Subway*  
on Christmas eve

Aunt Thelma calling  
Uncle Norm's cheap hairpiece  
*a small price toupee*

Uncle Norm calling  
Aunt Thelma's three girdles  
*waist management aids*

their Granddad  
hoping there is porn  
in the afterlife

Fred Jones learning  
his grandson's been named  
Michelangelo

a child hearing  
her hair called *dirty blonde*,  
starting to cry

a teen pondering  
which last name rocks the most:  
McCool or Outlaw

referring  
to his identical twin  
as *rather unique*

her Type A father,  
tense and hostile since childhood,  
turning ninety-eight

teaching his young son  
to say *We're going to hell*,  
*I'm driving the bus*

chemistry tutor  
rooting for Detroit because  
of Al Kaline

geography prof  
noting *Eur.* is where  
*It.*'s at

lonely man choosing  
an all-night pharmacy  
over singles bars

at *Shoe City*  
a master plumber  
buying clogs

Aunt Rae declining  
the watercress sandwich:  
*Too goyish*

struggling pol  
valuing truth more  
than power

Neil Lightner  
asking his fellow teachers  
to call him *N*

appreciating  
the bartender's compliment:  
*It's on me*

*Chez Paul* maître d'  
glaring at the man wearing  
a tee, suspenders

home from college . . .  
their child dumping his anger  
and laundry

fifth grader learning  
the difference between  
*airhead* and *heiress*

the elder fearing  
her one-year-old great-nephew  
is a psychopath

riding the *Cyclone*,  
Granddad noting he prefers  
the *Teacups*

a shy child asking  
his folks for a doorbell  
outside his bedroom

their seven year-old  
explaining why *Snickers* rule  
but *Milky Ways* suck

stoned percussionist  
attempting to set fire  
to his drumsticks

*Your job? . . .*  
the shipping clerk replying  
*Laying low*

her Abilene beau  
calling marinara sauce  
*Eye-talian gravy*

trombone tutor  
insisting on *water key*,  
not *spit valve*

high school grad seeking  
a job with a huge paycheck,  
minimal duties



at her husband's wake,  
learning she has just won

*Powerball*

costume department . . .  
his daughter trying to choose:  
T. rex or swan

Nana calling  
the libidinous teen  
*a harlette*

last hour in prison . . .  
the con finishing a book,  
ending the sentence

*Key to a long life? . . .*  
hundred-year-old man noting  
*Lots of sleep*

her fifth grader  
assuming adultery  
follows childhood

Christmastime . . .  
three Texans in Zambia  
singing *Jungle Bells*

sloshed bandleader  
mistaking the tuba's bell  
for a toilet

Grandpa Irwin  
blaming global warming  
on anti-Semites

axe murderer  
explaining to the judge  
*I was provoked*

sixth grade teacher  
informing giggling students  
what *sexton* means

ninth grade teacher  
informing outraged students  
what *niggardly* means

10:30 p.m. . . .  
their fifteen year-old stating  
*I'm taking a nap*

bulimic child  
expressing ambivalence  
about Halloween

urging his grandson  
not to swat the housefly:  
*Its life is hard, short*



## Author's Note

Dr. Robert H. Deluty is the Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He has been a psychology professor at UMBC since 1980, and was named Presidential Teaching Professor in 2002. He and his wife, Barbara (a clinical psychologist), live in Ellicott City, Maryland and have two children, Laura and David, and two granddaughters, Ava and Claire. Dr. Deluty's poems and essays have been published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Pegasus Review*, *Modern Haiku*, *Voices: The Art and Science of Psychotherapy*, *Psychiatric Times*, *Jewish Currents*, *the Journal of Poetry Therapy*, *Welcome Home*, *Muse of Fire*, *Maryland Family Magazine*, *Gastronomica: The Journal of Food and Culture*, *The Faculty Voice*, and many other newspapers, journals, and anthologies. *On the Tightrope* is his fiftieth book.

