



THE COVER OF ERIC BRAMAN'S
BURY ME IN CHERRY BLOSSOMS
Photos courtesy of Eric Braman

his journey with therapy, in which he had chamomile tea in every session for comfort. “Learning to Drive” features the physical harm we put ourselves through. The juxtaposition of the two shows the non-linear path of mental health. “Mental health isn’t just a destroyer or something you have to overcome, it’s also something that just is incorporated into life and has its highs and its lows,” Braman says.

Braman ends their collection with the poem that is the cover’s namesake, which explores the limitless bounds of nature in contrast to the bounds of society’s view on gender identity. “That poem became this kind of wish and this want to be able to access what nature can access, which is masculine and feminine,” Braman says.

‘I hope it challenges the way that people understand the queer experience.’

— ERIC BRAMAN

Braman hopes that the poetry collection will allow queer folks to see the parts of themselves that they don’t often get to see. “I hope it challenges the way that people understand the queer experience; name any queer movie, and it’s either beautiful or horrendous,” Braman says, “and I’m trying to complicate that experience because the more we hear the diversity of experiences the better.”

Find *Bury Me in Cherry Blossoms* at Eric Braman’s website EricBraman.com.

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