



*Congratulations Pauletta Hansel, Susan O'Dell Underwood, and Jeff Hardin, featured authors at the Southern Festival of books, 2022*

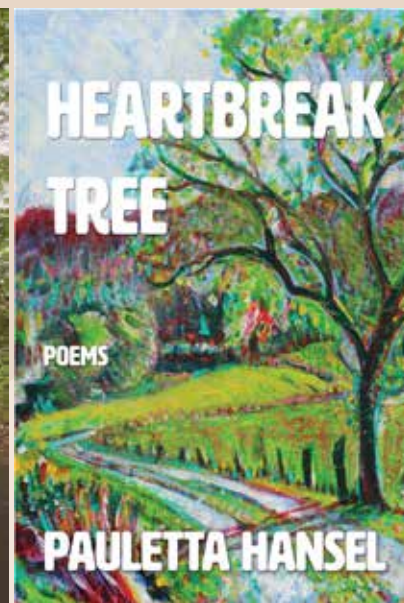
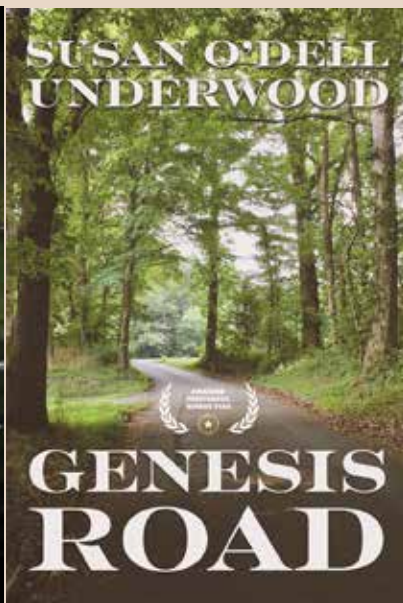


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## Madville specials During the Southern Festival of Books!



*Heartbreak Tree* is a poetic exploration of the intersection of gender and place in Appalachia. "There is a road, but the road is still inside you," the mature Hansel tells the girl she was, encouraging her: "You are trying. Remember." This book does the work of that remembering, honoring the responsibility of the poet to speak the forbidden stories of her own and other women's lives.

At the heart of Jeff Hardin's seventh collection *Watermark*, a devotional, philosophical faith seeks "to know what can't be known," to step into, as if a sanctuary, "some deeper / deep / than what our words / can touch." In each poem, his meditations stitch back through a visible, vertical phrase—a whispered prayer, a "watermark"—that serves not only to anchor thought but also to align and to re-align the purpose of thought within "this bent and broken world."

In *Genesis Road*, by Susan O'Dell Underwood, Glenna Daniels faces a midlife cul-de-sac. She bears a recent miscarriage and third divorce the way her Appalachian parents taught her to cope with tragedy—in stoic secrecy. She quits her social work position in Knoxville and runs away from home at the age of thirty-six, heading west with childhood friend, Carey, a gay professor in Atlanta. During their years in school, Glenna protected him from bullies. Now Carey is her savvy guide as she tries to heal her fractured life. Through the wilds of America Glenna grapples with the past and reconciles a way back home.

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