

## **Pure Artistry by DM Denton**

*Review of Between 'Dusk and Darkness', a prose-poetry anthology by A. Carder*

One of my greatest recent reading pleasures has been the writing of A. Carder, initially through her blog, 'Becoming Herself'. It is wonderful to have so many of her quietly unique, intelligent and sensitive pieces in one collection—thoughts that curl in on themselves so you have to lean closer to hear their secrets and resistance to telling too much. 'Between Dusk and Darkness' offers page after page of interior moments past and present, slowly and softly recounting very personal experiences about love and loss, and the certainty and ambivalence in-between. The writing here is exact and elusive, rich in 'everyday' detail, intriguing images and delicate wordplay; its progression is often unexpected, profound and always very moving. It touches and tastes, inhales and exhales, constructs and crumbles, remembers and imagines; holding on and letting go with poignant lyricism that sings to what the heart does, the spirit reflects on, and the intellect struggles with. For me there isn't any need to define these pieces as prose or poetry, they have stillness at their source and follow a current as they need to, into a river or a stream or cascading over a waterfall. This lovely collection is as much about discovery as loss, for the author and the reader. I fervently recommend it as a meditative 'Passaggio'—the title of one of the pieces and a musical term that describes the shift of the voice from one range to another thus signifying movement from one place to another—for losing oneself in pure artistry and finding a hope for love and life within.