

Reflections on Robert Morgan



To say that Robert Morgan and his work are as multifaceted and brilliant as the zirconia discovered in his native North Carolina mountains is but part of the story he has—and continues—to give us in the depth and far reaches of his writings and imagination. Widely recognized as the “poet laureate of Appalachia,” steeped in the natural sciences and folkways and mysteries of what’s underfoot, overhead, and overheard, Morgan hews his poetry and fiction with a lapidary’s vision and precise angling for best light and color. After fifteen poetry collections, biographical works on Daniel Boone and our country’s westward expansion, and now nine novels, Morgan’s passion for chronicling our individual and our country’s history never wanes in his luminous telling, his vast curiosity to explore what lies beneath the surface of our very human lust for life and understanding.

I have been honored to know Bob as a great teacher and scholar, a gifted writer of the highest craft, and a generous supporter of my own writing. His newest novel, *Chasing the North Star*, speaks to my love of history in a time of particular anguish and struggle for identity. To say that I’m astounded at his voluminous output, at his ability to shape song and memory from the forest floor, is to keep wanting more—and knowing it will be forthcoming, as fine and unforgettable as ever.

—Linda Parsons Marion, poet, playwright, editor