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## Spare Parts

*Ken Hada*

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**Ken Hada : Spare Parts** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spare Parts:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding volume of poetryBy William HaddonThe poet has arguably the hardest job of any who set out to create. They must captivate without overpowering, transport without

kidnapping, teach without lecture, and do it all with such delicate placement of words in the most sparse of literary real-estate. Ken Hada does all of these things and more and does them masterfully. As I read (and re-read) this collection I found myself immersed in his world of honest sentiment, sometimes regretful, sometimes jovial and nostalgic, but always truthful. My favorites run the spectrum of emotions. "Picking Up Chicks at Wal-Mart" is a whimsical ride anyone can see themselves on while others, like "Dad's Sled", are personal and poignant allowing us a look in, a chance to see relationship and admiration, maybe feel it a little, but the full force of emotion belongs to the teller, the rememberer. And we feel honored to have been allowed the chance to look on. "Hands" spoke to me about loss and the tradition and ritual that follows, of promises we make but might not be around to keep. I think my favorite was "When I was a Texan". It is one of the longer poems in the volume but with each phrase a passing of time and life. Maybe fiction, maybe autobiographical, but it pulled me in with all the familiar themes of real adult life. Even if you are not a big fan of poetry you should try this volume. Hada writes in way that is personal and accessible and might just make you a fan of poetry. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Life Distilled in Verse By Larry Thomas In these poignant poems, Hada probes the natural and human worlds with equal candor, forcefulness, and literary artistry. His canvas is broad, and he paints it with rare compassion, grit, and unblinking emotional honesty. This is a book to read and return to, again and again, for the little triumphs necessary to sustain us through the tragedies of our lives. Highly recommended. Larry D. Thomas 2008 Texas Poet Laureate Member, Texas Institute of Letters 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. You gotta love it By Roxie Martin Hada's poems read like tiny movies--westerns, biographies, memoirs, chick flicks, tear-jerkers--they're all here! These would be great "starter poems" for poetry skeptics, or a book for a poetry lover to savor. I've read it through several times already in the few days I've had it, and intend to read it many times more.

Winner of the 2010 National Western Heritage Award, these poems, acting as spare parts in themselves, go into the making of one smooth-running, powerful engine. --Diane Glancy, author of *Pushing the Bear*

About the Author Ken Hada is a fourth-generation Oklahoman, descendant of Danish and Hungarian immigrants: Gypsy poets, barn dance aficionados, art lovers, amateur philosophers, wheat farmers, preachers, teachers and common-sense craftsmen. Ken claims northwest Oklahoma and the Ozarks as his homes, though he readily embraces the natural world wherever he travels. Much of his free time finds him walking prairies, ascending small mountains, flyfishing and kayaking native streams, the Gulf Coast or Canadian lakes. Ken completed his PhD at The University of Texas in Arlington, writing on Cormac McCarthy's *Border Trilogy*. Since 2000, he has been a professor at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma where he teaches American literatures and courses in the humanities. He also directs the annual Scissortail Creative Writing Festival held each April at ECU. He authored a chapbook of link poems with Japanese translation in conjunction with Ogaki Women's College in 1994. His collection, *The Way of the Wind*, was published in 2008 by Village Books Press. Much of his creative writing and critical research blends in the area of nature writing, ecocriticism, and regional "people's history." He serves as area chair for Literature: Ecocriticism and the Environment for the annual Popular Culture Association meeting held in Albuquerque. Some of his interpretive writing appears in *College Literature*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Ethnic Studies*, *American Indian and Culture Research Journal*, *Journal of the West*, *Papers on Language and Literature* and *Journal of American Studies Association of Texas*.