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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***“The Altar of Innocence” offers rare and compassionate look at depression***

BALTIMORE, MD (Feb. 17, 2015) --- Poet [Ann Bracken](#) based the poems included in [The Altar of Innocence](#) on events from her life. From the 60s culture of secrecy surrounding alcoholism and depression, Bracken learned unspoken lessons about communication, conflict, and managing illness, all of which would unfold in her own unhealthy marriage. A book launch is planned for Friday, Feb. 27, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at [Zü Coffee](#) in Annapolis, MD. The event is free and all are welcome.

[Grace Cavaleri](#), poet and producer of the radio show “*The Poet and the Poem*” from the Library of Congress, said, “Bracken’s strength comes from an equilibrium between idea and performance—interior and exterior lives, smartly drawn. With a strong voice, vitally engaged, she presents characters and behavior without judgment. Poetry is the vehicle that makes us laugh and cry at her *Altar of Innocence*.”

“By telling her mother’s story and sharing her own, Ann Bracken takes us on an intimate journey through two generations of mental illness and ultimate healing. Readers will find hope in her journey,” said [Laura Shovan](#), author of *Mountain, Log, Salt, and Stone*, and winner of the Harriss Poetry Prize.

*The Altar of Innocence* is a 90-page volume of poetry, available in paperback with a retail price of \$20.00. The ISBN number is ISBN 978-0-9906939-5-6. Published through [New Academia Publishing/Scarith Books](#), *The Altar of Innocence* is now available via [Amazon.com](#) and [B&N.com](#). For more information or to request a review copy, please contact Debby Rippey at [debbyrippey@gmail.com](#).

**About Ann Bracken:**

Ann Bracken is a writer, educator, and expressive arts consultant whose poetry, essays, and interviews have appeared in [Little Patuxent Review](#), *Life in Me Like Grass on Fire: Love Poems*, *Reckless Writing Anthology: Emerging Poets of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, *Women Write Resistance: Poets Resist Gender Violence*, *Pif Magazine*, *Scribble*, *New Verse News*, and *Praxilla*. Nominated for a 2014 Pushcart Prize, Bracken also serves as a contributing editor for *Little Patuxent Review* and leads workshops at creativity conferences, including The Creative Problem Solving Institute, Florida Creativity, and Mindcamp of Toronto. Her company, [The Possibility Project](#), offers expressive arts and creativity workshops for women of all ages, as well as poetry workshops in schools. Bracken is a lecturer in the Professional Writing Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. For additional information, visit: <http://www.annbrackenauthor.com>.

**About New Academia Publishing:**

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