Michael Lenza, PhD, is an ex-convict who is now an Associate Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He has published on the death penalty, research ethics, medical marijuana, a historical political view of the development of mass incarceration in the USA, as well as theory and research methods. He is currently working on the institutional foundations of violence in the American context, and utilizing postmodern autoethnograpic theory and methods to provide voice to prisoners.

Front Cover: "When harmony fails, I go to where the rocks sleep"

Back Cover: "And become"

The poem and paintings were done when I was serving time and was still in max. As prisoners we had little choice but to deal with the contradictions within – who am I? Events out in the free world or a mere policy change could redefine us and our sentences like earthquakes roving through time. It could knock down flat that head trip of who we believed ourselves to be. Problem is you cannot exist as a man or women in any world without that 'me' or 'I'. In that crush of the quakes knocking down our worlds we would regularly arise to create self once more – thereby become. Problem was, even in our hard fought for delusions of our lives, we knew more quakes were roving our world. Sometimes it was good for one hell of a laugh, other times not.