

A life worth remembering



Accelerated Paces

Jim Oaten

Anvil Press

176 pp

\$18.00

Jim Oaten has no problem expressing what is on his mind. Crossing all boundaries of imagination, he blends reality with fiction in *Accelerated Paces*, a collection of random short stories. Whether he is at the back of his parent's car, wandering the streets of a bombed-out Beirut, or striving to remain sane in the wings of the mental ward, Oaten tells it like it is. With the weight of early-onset Alzheimer's on his shoulders, Oaten struggles to remember events in his life before they slip into darkness.

"The very process of retrieving a memory not only creates but also challenges that recollection forever," he writes.

Although the book's small size might imply that it doesn't contain much, readers will find it filled with personal voyages and literary truths. Blending topics such as the first Gulf war, CNN and religion with Oaten's personal anecdotes and opinions, this book is nothing short of a good read.

4/5

—*Shereen Ahmed Rafea*