



## About the Author

JANICE HOFFMAN holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University and has taught creative writing, and literature in Indiana and Kentucky. Currently, she teaches at the Historic Triangle Campus of Thomas Nelson Community College in Virginia where she also co-hosts a monthly poetry reading. She is a member of several local writing groups, as well as the Poetry Society of Virginia for whom she edits *A Commonwealth of Poetry*, its newsletter. She is also a member of the Poetry Society of Indiana and Chesapeake Bay Writers.

Her work appears in sundry literary journals (*Snowy Egret*, *POEM*, *The Northern Virginia Review*, *Women Who Write*, and others) and has won awards and/or also appears in the anthologies for the poetry societies of Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Texas, South Dakota, Oregon, and Virginia. In 1995, she won first place in *The Canadian Writers' Journal's* international poetry contest, and in 2017, she was runner-up for Poet Laureate of Hampton Roads. She lives in Williamsburg, Virginia, with her husband, grandson, and two Chocolate Labs. Her book is available via Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, and IndieBound.org.

## Advance Reviews

The melodious and emotionally riveting poems in Janice Hoffman's *Soul Cookies* recount familial victories and challenges while also revealing the poet's reverence for literary and historical figures, as well as her astute comprehension of art. Her meticulous imagery and attention to detail vivify an array of characters in poems that personalize the author's view of humanity. Admirable is Hoffman's decision to remain positive despite life's obstacles and instead to "chase the gloom of darkness far away."

**Dr. Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda**  
*Virginia Poet Laureate Emerita*

Peering through history's fog-edged windows, Janice Hoffman plumbs her fertile imagination to reimagine characters from paintings, the Bible, and ancestors from her own family tree. The poems in her debut collection sweep the emotional arc from playful romps through gardens and visions of fairies to somber reflections of loved ones now gone. Throughout, scent and color serve as touchstones of memory, as in the poem of her son's suicide, where "Every October, my heart converts to dull brown, and once again, I dry and descend with the leaves." *Soul Cookies* is earnest and accessible, its pages brimming with country wisdom and heart.

**Bill Glose**

F. Scott Fitzgerald Short Story Award winner  
Author of *Virginia Walkabout*, *Personal Geography*,  
*Half a Man*, and *The Human Touch*

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