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Nota di contenuto	Intro -- Contents -- Publisher's Note -- Introduction: Hope Is One Foot in Front of the Other   B. J. Hollars -- Hope Is Purple   Jim Alf -- Hope Is Revelations   Abayomi Animashaun -- Hope Is What's Just Beyond Hopelessness   Jerry Apps -- Hope Is the Thing in Hell, Michigan   Jodie Arnold -- Hope Is a Dog Named Igor   Sharon Auberle -- Hope Is a Wormhole in the Universe   Laura Jean Baker -- Hope Is the Thing That Grows   Meredith Ball -- Hope Is Somewhere in the Treble Clef   Aviroop Basu -- Hope Is the Perfect Round Roti   Lopamudra Basu -- Hope Is a Verb   Emily Bertholf -- Hope Is in the Dancing: Ikwe-niimi'idiwin   Kimberly Blaeser -- Hope Is the Thing That Breathes   Peggy Blomenberg -- Hope Is the Hours before Redemption   Tim Brennan -- Hope Is the Last of the Warmth   Ryan Browne -- Hope Is a Dangerous Thing   Nickolas Butler -- Hope Is the Earth Without Us   Brenda Cárdenas -- Hope Is the Miracle Inside Poets   Fabu Phillis Carter -- Hope Is a Three-Pronged Fork   Justin Carter -- Hope Is a Lost Peanut Floating Down the Kickapoo   Matt Cashion -- Hope Is the Next Mile   Erin Ceello -- Hope Is Not Truth   Dorothy Chan -- Hope Is Wildfire   Dekila Chungyalpa -- Hope Is a Thing with a Spine   Christina Clancy -- Hope Is a 3-0 Fastball   Louis V. Clark III -- Hope Is Our Young Sons   Cathryn Cofell -- Hope Is What I Wrestle With   Alea Cross -- Hope Is

the Mantis Eating Her Lover Mid-Sex-Act | Nick Demske -- Hope Is Constellation | Bruce Dethlefsen -- Hope Is the Thing We Carry within the Trunks of Trees | Connor Drexler -- Hope Is a Homemade Tortilla: A Children's Story | Araceli Esparza -- Hope Is Graffitied Boxcars | Jennifer Fandel -- Hope Is the Birth Plan | Stephanie Farrar -- Hope Is in the Asparagus Patch | Chris Fink -- Hope Is Breath | Susan Firer -- Hope Is Nearly Nothing | Max Garland.  
Hope Is the Thing Holding Us Back | Jay Gilbertson -- Hope Is Flat, Thin, Light, a Sign | Susan Gloss -- Hope Is Pursuit of the Perfect Swing | Neal Griffin -- Hope Is a Dad Dance | Matthew Guenette -- Hope Is a Dark Flock Rising | Nicholas Gulig -- Hope Is an Embrace | Katy Hackworthy -- Hope Is Conditional | David Hadbawnik -- Hope Is a View from the Bridge | John Hildebrand -- Hope Is a Hard Reboot | Luong Huynh -- Hope Is a Magic Pillow | Sarah Jayne Johnson -- Hope Is the Thing in Between | Kendall Kartaly -- Hope Is a Good Night Message over Microsoft Teams | Emily Kassera -- Hope Is a Bruise | Dasha Kelly Hamilton -- Hope Is an Old Man with a New Guitar | Dion Kempthorne -- Hope Is the Thing That Rarely Acts | Lisa Krawczyk -- Hope Is the Thing Penciled in for Sunday Afternoon | Courtney Kueppers -- Hope Is the Thing with Red Curls | Charlotte Kupsh -- Hope Is That Hidden New Smile | Matthew Larson -- Hope Is Still the Thing with Feathers | Estella Lauter -- Hope Is the Stars in Alignment | Karen Loeb -- Hope Is in the Housework | Allyson Loomis -- Hope Is the Thing That Keeps Me from Day Drinking | Jon Loomis -- Hope Is the Thing That Pickles | Yia Lor -- Hope Is the Thing We Find in the Voids | Dan Lyksett -- Hope Is the Trash Can That Shatters a Window | Donte McFadden -- Hope Is the Hawaiian Shirt, Hope Is the Ukulele | Rebecca Meacham -- Hope Is on the Table | Curt Meine -- Hope Is the Thing That Blossoms on Trees Rebecca Mennecke -- Hope Is a Four-letter Word | Oscar Mireles -- Hope Is a Fishing Boat | Ralph Murre -- Hope Is a Dog Whose Paws Twitch When She Dreams Debra Peterson -- Hope Is the Thing We Hear Jessi Peterson -- Hope Is the Old Man's Beard | Ty Phelps -- Hope Is Tying a Bear to a Porch Chair | Eric Rasmussen -- Hope Is the Thing That Keeps Me Awake | Rita Mae Reese -- Hope Is the Last Unblemished Banana | Jenna Rindo.  
Hope Is the Thing with Four Leaves | Scout Roux -- Hope Is the Thing That Flies | Margaret Rozga -- Hope Is the Work It Takes | Rafael Francisco Salas -- Hope Is a Cold Nose | Katherine Schneider -- Hope Is This Moment | Tracy Schuldt Helixon -- Hope Is the Thing with Thirty-six Questions | Patti See -- Hope Is the Thing That Lets Me See Them | Kaia Simon -- Hope Is Empathy | Deanna Singh -- Hope Is a Humane Crockpot | Abraham Smith -- Hope Is Feathers Spreading Angela Sorby -- Hope Is the Thing That Coughs Up a Furball | Erin Stevens -- Hope Is a Postapocalyptic Nest | Heather Swan -- Hope Is the Thing in Quiz Question 7 | Ken Szymanski -- Hope Is a Monument Breached | Sahar Mahmoud Taman -- Hope Is Another Thing | Bruce Taylor -- Hope Is the John Prine Song You're Thinking Of | Ben Theyerl -- Hope Is a Waiting Game | Alex Tronson -- Hope Is in the Half Blinks of History | Angie Trudell Vasquez -- Hope Is the Thing That Knows | Jodi Vandenberg-Daves -- Hope Is in the Awakening | Lisa Vihos -- Hope Is the Coin Flipped | Angela Voras-Hills -- Hope Is the Thing That Endures | Jamie Vue -- Hope Is a Thing with Wheels | Larry Watson -- Hope Is the Thing Our Hunger Thirsts Upon | Rachel Werner -- Hope Is a Hawk Soaring | Peter Whalen -- Hope Is a Clear Window | Peter Whitis -- Hope Is Never Gone | Jake Wrasse -- Hope Is the Thing So Small, You Might Almost Miss It | Karissa Zastrow -- Hope Is the Thing I Deliver | Amanda Zieba -- Acknowledgments.

cases of COVID-19, writer and professor B. J. Hollars struck out to create a collaborative writing project to bridge the emotional distance created by way of our physical social distancing. Drawing upon Emily Dickinson's famous poem, "Hope Is The Thing with Feathers," Hollars put out a call for Wisconsinites to reflect on their own glimpses of hope in the COVID-19 era. The guidelines were simple: five hundred words or less, and a title that borrowed from Dickinson's format: "Hope is the Thing [Fill in the Blank]." The call resulted in an avalanche of submissions, each of which reflects on hope's ability to persist and flourish, even in the darkest times. The one hundred contributors represent a variety of backgrounds, from truck driver to poet laureate, from middle school student to octogenarian. They are racially diverse, geographically diverse, and culturally diverse, representing a rough cross section of Wisconsin voices. Some are seasoned writers, while others have never been published. The result is a book-length exploration of the depth and range of hope as its currently being experienced by Wisconsinites in the midst of this crisis, as well as an important record of what Wisconsinites are facing and feeling through these historic times"--

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