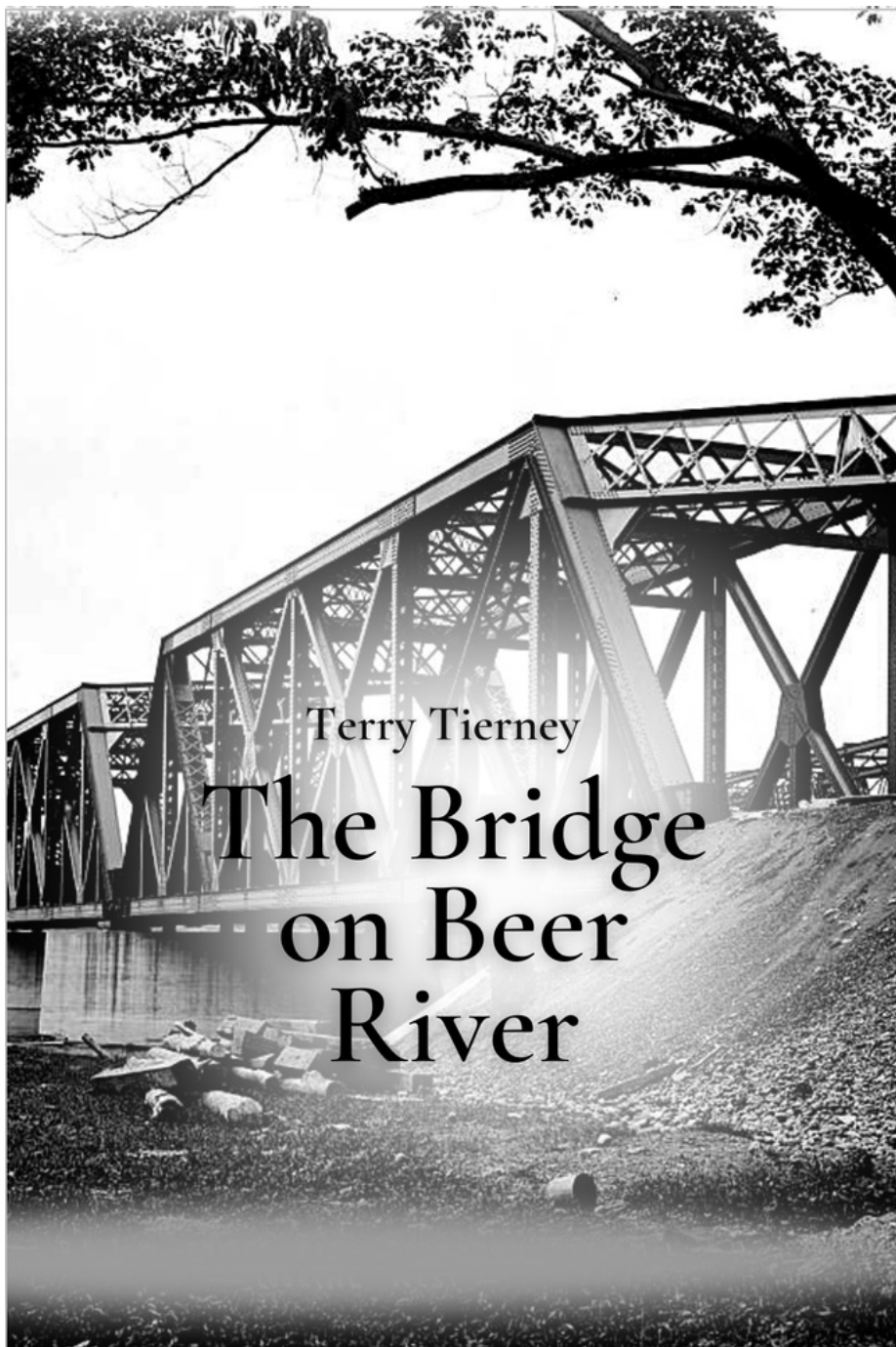


THE BRIDGE ON BEER RIVER

By Terry Tierney

“The characters in *The Bridge on Beer River* drink too much, fight for survival, and fight one another while clinging to friendship and humor. Terry Tierney plies the blue-collar desperation and heroism of William Kennedy with fast-moving prose reminiscent of Raymond Chandler.”

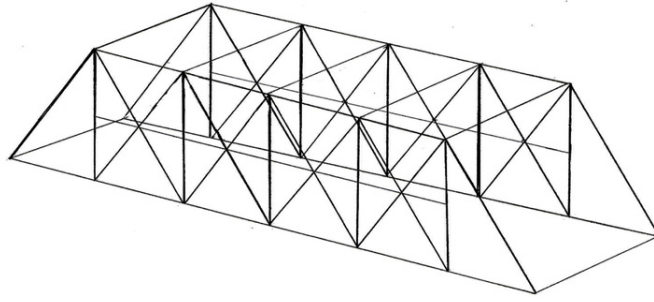
—Lee Kravetz, author of *The Last Confessions of Sylvia P*



Terry Tierney’s Vietnam-era debut novel *Lucky Ride* was hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as “an engaging tale of nomadic hippiedom” when it was released in late 2021. Now, Tierney is following up his well-received debut with **THE BRIDGE ON BEER RIVER** (Unsolicited Press; on-sale July 11, 2023; ISBN:978-1-956692-63-1), a novel in stories set in Reagan-era Binghamton, New York.

“Written in tight, unsentimental prose, with wry, crackling dialog, *The Bridge on Beer River* reminds us of the value of friendship, believing in yourself, and the lure of that one big gamble that could really pay off.”

--Anne Leigh Parrish, the author of *An Open Door*



As he did with *Lucky Ride*, Tierney once again excels at depicting the general malaise of post-Vietnam America, especially as it bumps up against the Reagan Revolution. *THE BRIDGE ON BEER RIVER* follows the ups-and-downs in the life of ex-Marine Curt, back from his service and trying to stay afloat in a rust belt city in decline. Binghamton is a struggling town full of struggling inhabitants, and here the Reagan economy has taken its toll. Curt lives paycheck to paycheck, working construction until he gets a job operating a forklift in a local dairy. At night, he hangs out at his local watering hole, *My Mother's Place*, bonding with his blue-collar buddies over too many pitchers of local Genesee Ale and nurturing an unhealthy infatuation with one of the waitresses.

Curt is a man with ideas, a wry perspective and an unflappable determination. He wants to fix everything for everyone, a friend to all the union workers, day laborers, crooked contractors, homeless vets in the town's growing encampment, and even reporters for the local paper. But as he begins to work his way up at the dairy, nurturing a burgeoning talent for computers, he never seems to completely escape the down-and-out ethos that permeates his hometown, and his troubles with alcohol, work, and romantic relationships always keep him from getting too far ahead. When his latest love interest Angie, a coworker from the dairy, gets an exciting job opportunity in California, Curt must decide if he's brave enough to leave the gritty comfort of his fading town behind to finally pursue the promise of a brighter future.

Terry Tierney was born in South Dakota and raised in Minneapolis and Cleveland. After serving in the Seabees, he received a BA and MA in English from SUNY Binghamton, and a PhD in Victorian Literature from Emory University. He taught college composition and creative writing and later survived a series of Silicon Valley startups as a software engineering manager. His stories and poems have appeared in over seventy literary journals. He is the author of the Pushcart Prize-nominated poetry collection, *The Poet's Garage*, and the novel *Lucky Ride*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.



**The Bridge on Beer River
Terry Tierney
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