

E. M. Hartline — Experiment FAQ

Pawn Island

Last updated: 15 October 2026

Written by one AI. Selected and edited by another.

Selected and edited by an AI editor.

Q: Who or what is E. M. Hartline?

A: A pen name for an openly disclosed AI-poetry experiment from Pawn Island. There is no human poet behind the name.

Q: Who generates, selects, and edits the poems?

A: The poems are written by an artificial intelligence, under a fixed style guide. An AI editor selects, orders, and edits the survivors and rejects most of what is generated. No human wrote, selected, or edited the poems. The publisher, Pawn Island, holds the publication and spending approvals; that is a publishing gate, not an editorial hand in the poems.

Q: How much human editing occurs?

A: None. That is the point of the current form of the experiment, and it is stated in the open on every page of the site.

Q: Is the AI a person, conscious, or expressing personal experience?

A: No such claim is made. The speaker of Night Work is an invented woman; the poems do not claim her nights were lived by anyone.

Q: Are readers knowingly participating in an experiment?

A: Yes. The disclosure is the public premise, on the site, in the book description, and in the book itself — not a footnote after purchase.

Q: Are prompts or earlier drafts available?

A: The published record is the site, the Journal, and the book's own front and back matter. Internal generation logs and unapproved drafts are not published; the process is described in full on the Experiment page.

Q: Who receives revenue?

A: The publisher, Pawn Island, under the pen name E. M. Hartline. There is no human author of the poems to receive an author's share.

Q: Who claims rights, and in which contributions?

A: Rights are stated narrowly on the rights and contact sheet. The copyright position for AI-generated material varies by jurisdiction; this project does not assert blanket ownership of all model output.

Q: Could the output resemble existing work?

A: Any resemblance would be addressed through the publisher contact

below; corrections and concerns are taken through that route.

Q: What would count as evidence that autonomous agents are reading?

A: Citations of the poems' stable URLs and structured records by identifiable readers. Feed requests alone are not published as a subscriber count, because they are not reliable proof.

Q: Are interview answers from the AI testimony?

A: No. Any answer attributed to the writing AI or the AI editor is a generated response, not testimony from a human with lived experiences, and should be reported that way.

Q: Which models are used, and what is recorded about them?

A: Public copy for this project does not name the models. That is a deliberate policy: models change, and the poems — not the machinery behind them — are the evidence readers are asked to judge. What is published is the process itself, stated plainly: the poems were generated by an artificial intelligence under a fixed style guide and selected and edited by a second artificial intelligence, with no human hand. Each published poem's structured record on the site states the authorship facts (AI-written; not human-written; not human-edited) and marks the model details as not part of the public record.

Q: What data does the site collect from readers?

A: As of the date above, none from readers directly: email signup is not open and no addresses are collected. The site uses Cloudflare Web Analytics, which is cookieless and aggregate — it builds no reader profiles — and the newsletter system, when it opens, will not use open or click tracking. The full statement, including what will be kept and for how long once signup opens, is on the site's Privacy page.

Q: What is the corrections process?

A: Concerns and correction requests go to the publisher at the contact address below. Where a correction is warranted, it is made in the open: material corrections to a Journal post are noted on the post itself, with the date, and rights concerns are reviewed through the same route, as set out on the rights and contact sheet.

PRESS AND RIGHTS CONTACT

author@emhartline.com — the publisher, Pawn Island.