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Sheers Skirrid Hill

Owen Sheers Skirrid Hill

Enriched by James Kirby Martin's expanded and updated introduction, this classic memoir provides a compelling history of the Revolutionary

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War as seen through the eyes of one courageous soldier. Includes an expanded and updated introduction, annotations, and suggestions for further reading New maps give an overview of Joseph Plumb Martin's travels Brief headnotes introduce each chapter

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"Welsh Retrospective is a selection of poems about his native Wales by one of Britain's most popular poets. Dannie Abse's Welsh and Jewish backgrounds have been essential to his writings. Wales and Cardiff, in particular, have haunted his imagination. In this revealing new book

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book he writes movingly about the Cardiff of his childhood, home of his beloved Bluebirds football team, and also about the small village of Ogmore-by-Sea, location of early holidays and for many years his home in Wales. Selected from the whole of Dannie Abse's writing career, the book

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includes such well known and well-loved poems as “Return to Cardiff” and “In the Theatre” alongside many previously uncollected poems. Abse's range is remarkable. Vivid character portraits of Aunt Alice and Cousin Sidney sit next to tributes to poet predecessors, Dylan Thomas and

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Vernon Watkins. Some poems draw on Jewish writings, others on Welsh language literature. Welsh Retrospective gives fascinating insights into Dannie Abse's Wales and his versatility as a poet. His Wales is anything but parochial, his poems effortlessly universal. Every reader will

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be struck by a poet who has a gift for accepting mortality with wise optimism. The book is edited by Cary Archard who provides an introduction and notes on the poems."

Another wild, expansive collection from the eternally surprising Pulitzer Prize–winning poet Smuggling diesel;

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Ben-Hur (the movie, yes, but also Lew Wallace's original book, and Seosamh Mac Grianna's Gaelic translation); a real trip to Havana; an imaginary trip to the Château d'If: Paul Muldoon's newest collection of poems, his twelfth, is exceptionally wide-ranging in its subject matter—as we've come to

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expect from this master of self-reinvention. He can be somber or quick-witted—often within the same poem: The mournful refrain of "Cuthbert and the Otters" is "I cannot thole the thought of Seamus Heaney dead," but that doesn't stop Muldoon from quipping that the ancient Danes

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"are already dyeing everything beige /
In anticipation, perhaps, of the carpet
and mustard factories." If this
masterful, multifarious collection does
have a theme, it is watchfulness. "War
is to wealth as performance is to
appraisal," he warns in
"Recalculating." And "Source is to leak

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as Ireland is to debt." Heedful, hard-won, head-turning, heartfelt, these poems attempt to bring scrutiny to bear on everything, including scrutiny itself. One Thousand Things Worth Knowing confirms Nick Laird's assessment, in The New York Review of Books, that Muldoon is "the most

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formally ambitious and technically innovative of modern poets," an experimenter and craftsman who "writes poems like no one else."

"Listen, are you breathing just a little, and calling it a life?" —Mary Oliver This luminous anthology brings together great poets from around the world

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whose work transcends culture and time. Their words reach past the outer divisions to the universal currents of love and revelation that move and inspire us all. These poems urge us to wake up and love. They also call on us to relinquish our grip on ideas and opinions that confine us and, instead,

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to risk moving forward into the life that is truly ours. In his selection, Roger Housden has placed strong emphasis on contemporary voices such as the American poet laureate Billy Collins and the Nobel Prize–winners Czeslaw Milosz and Seamus Heaney, but the collection also includes some timeless

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echoes of the past in the form of work by masters such as Goethe, Wordsworth, and Emily Dickinson. The tens of thousands of readers of Roger Housden's "Ten Poems" series will welcome this beautiful harvest of poems that both open the mind and heal the heart.

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Ideas of separation and divorce—the geographical divides of borders, the separation of the dead and the living, the movement from childhood to adulthood, and the end of relationships—drive this poetry collection from one of Great Britain's rising young talents. The collection

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revolves around the poems "Y Gaer" and "The Hillfort," the titles themselves suggesting the linguistic divide in Wales, from poems concerned with childhood, a Welsh landscape, and family to an outward-looking vision that is both geographic and historic. In 1966 a coal slag heap collapsed on

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a school in south Wales, killing 144 people, most of them children. Poet Owen Sheers has given voice to those who still live in Aberfan, the pit village in which tragedy struck, and uses their collective memories to create a striking work of poetic power. This is a portrait not just of what happened, but also of

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what was lost. What was Aberfan like in 1966? What were the interests of the people, the social life, the sporting obsessions, the bands of the day? What was the deeper history of the place? Why had it become the mining village it was, and what had it been before the discovery of coal under its

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soil? Perhaps most significantly: what is Aberfan like today? The Green Hollow is a historical story with a deeply urgent contemporary resonance; a story of what can happen when a community is run by a corporation. It is also a story known along generational rather than

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geographic borders. Based on the BBC One production, *The Green Hollow* is a beautifully rendered picture of a time and place - and a life-altering event whose effects are irrevocable. In *The Gospel of Us*, Owen Sheers reimagines as fiction his play *The Passion*, a three-day dramatisation set

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in the streets, beaches and clubs of Port Talbot, co-directed by and starring Michael Sheen. Sheers' novella is told through the eyes of a Port Talbot boy who one morning stumbles upon a stranger in the windswept dunes, singing songs to the sea. At dawn a week later this stranger

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welcomes the Teacher, a local man who has been missing for 40 nights. And so begins three days of unearthly events in which a suicide bomber is soothed, the dead rise from an underpass and a community is made to remember itself once more. Sheers' novella is told through the

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eyes of a Port Talbot boy who one morning stumbles upon a stranger in the windswept dunes, singing songs to the sea. At dawn a week later this stranger welcomes the Teacher, a local man who has been missing for 40 nights. And so begins three days of unearthly events in which a suicide

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bomber is soothed, the dead rise from an underpass and a community is made to remember itself once more.

The Gospel of Us is also a film, directed by Dave McKean.

With the cadences of Martin Luther King Jr. and the lyricism of Langston Hughes, the great civil rights activist

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Pauli Murray's sole book of poems finally returns to print. There has been explosive interest in the life of Pauli Murray, as reflected in a recent profile in *The New Yorker*, the publication of a definitive biography, and a new Yale University college in her name. Murray has been suddenly cited by leading

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historians as a woman who contributed far more to the civil rights movement than anyone knew, being arrested in 1940—fifteen years before Rosa Parks—for refusing to give up her seat on a Virginia bus. Celebrated by twenty-first-century readers as a civil rights activist on the level of King,

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Parks, and John Lewis, she is also being rediscovered as a gifted writer of memoir, sermons, and poems.

Originally published in 1970 and long unavailable, *Dark Testament and Other Poems* attests to her fierce lyrical powers. At turns song, prayer, and lamentation, Murray's poems

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Speak to the brutal history of slavery
and Jim Crow and the dream of racial
justice and equality.

[Collected Poems](#)

[Dark Testament: and Other Poems](#)

[Songs of Ourselves](#)

[The Dust Diaries](#)

[A Poem in the Voice of the NHS](#)

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[Border Country](#)

[A Novel](#)

[Faber Modern Classics](#)

[Human Chain](#)

[Philip Allan Literature Guide \(for A-
Level\): Skirrid Hill](#)

Enable students to achieve their
best grade in AS/A-level English

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Literature with this year-round course companion; designed to instil in-depth textual understanding as students read, analyse and revise Skirrid Hill throughout the course. This Study and Revise guide: - Increases

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students' knowledge of Skirrid Hill as they progress through the detailed commentary and contextual information written by experienced teachers and examiners - Develops understanding of characterisation,

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themes, form, structure and language, equipping students with a rich bank of textual examples to enhance their coursework and exam responses - Builds critical and analytical skills through challenging, thought-provoking

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questions and tasks that encourage students to form their own personal responses to the text - Extends learning and prepares students for higher-level study by introducing critical viewpoints, comparative references to other

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literary works and suggestions for independent research - Helps students maximise their exam potential using clear explanations of the Assessment Objectives, sample student answers and examiner insights - Improves

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students' extended writing
techniques through targeted advice
on planning and structuring a
successful essay

The University of Cambridge
Anthologies of Poetry and Stories.
An utterly stunning novel of love,

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loss, the insidious nature of secrets, and the transformative power of words. I Saw a Man fulfills the promise of Owen Sheers's acclaimed novel, Resistance. When journalist Caroline Marshall dies while on assignment in Pakistan,

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her grief-stricken husband, Michael, leaves their cottage in Wales and returns to London. He quickly develops a friendship with his neighbors, Josh and Samantha Nelson, and their two young daughters. Michael ' s becoming

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close with the family marks the beginning of a long healing process. But Michael's period of recovery comes to an abrupt end when a terrible accident brings the burden of a shattering secret into his life. How will Michael bear the

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agonizing weight of guilt as he navigates persistent doubts on the path to attempted redemption? The answer, revealed poignantly in Sheers' masterly prose, is eloquent, resonant, and completely unforgettable.

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This volume contains all of Owen's best known work, only four of which were published in his lifetime. His war poems were based on his acute observations of the soldiers with whom he served on the Western front, and reflect the

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horror and waste of World War
One.

A Boston Globe Best Poetry Book of
2011 Winner of the 2011 Griffin
Poetry Prize Winner of the 2011
Poetry Now Award Seamus
Heaney's new collection elicits

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continuities and solidarities,
between husband and wife, child
and parent, then and now, inside
an intently remembered
present—the stepping stones of the
day, the weight and heft of what is
passed from hand to hand, lifted

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and lowered. Human Chain also broaches larger questions of transmission, of lifelines to the inherited past. There are newly minted versions of anonymous early Irish lyrics, poems that stand at the crossroads of oral and

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written, and other "hermit songs" that weigh equally in their balance the craft of scribe and the poet's early calling as scholar. A remarkable sequence entitled "Route 101" plots the descent into the underworld in the Aeneid

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against single moments in the arc of a life, from a 1950s childhood to the birth of a first grandchild. Other poems display a Virgilian pietas for the dead—friends, neighbors, family—that is yet wholly and movingly vernacular.

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Human Chain also includes a poetic "herbal" adapted from the Breton poet Guillevic—lyrics as delicate as ferns, which puzzle briefly over the world of things and landscapes that exclude human speech, while affirming the interconnectedness

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of phenomena, as of a self-sufficiency in which we too are included.

Drawing on interviews and unprecedented access with players and WRU coaching staff, this book presents an intimate portrait of a

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national team in the very best tradition of literary sports writing. The Welsh publishing house Gwasg Gomer published Gillian Clarke's first full collection of poems, *The Sundial*, in 1978. In the twenty years since then the poet has

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become one of the best-loved and most widely read writers of Wales, well-known for her readings, for her radio work and her workshops. Gillian Clarke is a severe critic of her own poems—*Collected Poems* includes all that she wishes to

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preserve of her work to date.
Written by experienced A-level
examiners and teachers who know
exactly what students need to
succeed, and edited by a chief
examiner, Philip Allan Literature
Guides (for A-level) are invaluable

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study companions with exam-specific advice to help you to get the grade you need. This full colour guide includes: - detailed scene summaries and sections on themes, characters, form, structure, language and contexts - a

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dedicated 'Working with the text'
section on how to write about texts
for coursework and controlled
assessment and how to revise for
exams - Taking it further boxes on
related books, film adaptations and
websites - Pause for thought boxes

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to get you thinking more widely
about the text - Task boxes to test
yourself on transformation,
analysis, research and comparison
activities - Top 10 quotes PLUS
FREE REVISION RESOURCES at www.philipallan.co.uk/literatureguides

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online, including a glossary of literary terms and concepts, revision advice, sample essays with student answers and examiners comments, interactive questions, revision podcasts, flash cards and spider diagrams, links to

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unmissable websites, and answers
to tasks set in the guide.

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[Poems](#)

[The Green Hollow](#)

[The Two Worlds of Charlie F.](#)

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[A Journey to the Heart of Welsh
Rugby](#)

[Pink Mist](#)

[I Saw a Man](#)

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[Study and Revise for AS/A-level:
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A powerful collection from one of our most gifted and widely read poets—117 of her finest poems drawn from her seven published volumes. Michael Ondaatje has

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called Sharon Olds's
poetry "pure fire in the
hands" and cheered the
"roughness and humor and
brag and tenderness and
completion in her work
as she carries the

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reader through rooms of
passion and loss." This
rich selection exhibits
those qualities in poem
after poem, reflecting,
moreover, an exciting
experimentation with

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rhythm and language and
a movement toward an
embrace beyond the
personal. Subjects are
revisited—the pain of
childhood, adolescent
sexual stirrings, the

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fulfillment of marriage,
the wonder of
children—but each
recasting penetrates
ever more deeply,
enriched by new
perceptions and

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conceits. Strike Sparks is a testament to this remarkable poet's continuing and amazing growth.

In *Feminine Gospels*, Carol Ann Duffy draws on

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the historical, the
archetypal, the biblical
and the fantastical to
create various visions -
and revisions - of
female identity.

Simultaneously stripping

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women bare and revealing
them in all their guises
and disguises, these
poems tell tall stories
as though they were true
confessions, and spin
modern myths from real

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women seen in every
aspect - as bodies and
corpses, writers and
workers, shoppers and
slimmers, fairytale
royals or girls-next-
door. 'Part of Duffy's

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talent - besides her ear
for ordinary eloquence,
her gorgeous, powerful,
throwaway lines, her
subtlety - is her
ventriloquism . . . From
verbal nuances to mind-

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expanding imaginative
leaps, her words seem
freshly plucked from the
minds of non-poets -
that is, she makes it
look easy' Charlotte
Mendelson, Observer

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When railway signalman Harry Price suffers a stroke his son Matthew, a lecturer in London, makes a return to the border village of Glynmawr. As Matthew and

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Harry struggle with their memories of social and personal change, a beautiful and moving portrait of the love between a father and son emerges. First published

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in 1964.

Charles Simic has been widely celebrated for his brilliant poetic imagery; his social, political, and moral alertness; his uncanny

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ability to make the
ordinary extraordinary;
and not least, the
sardonic humor all his
own. Gathering much of
his material from the
seemingly mundane

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minutiae of contemporary
American culture, Simic
matches meditations on
spiritual concerns and
the weight of history
with a nimble wit,
shifting effortlessly to

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moments of clear vision
and intense poetic
revelation. Chosen as
one of the New York
Library's 25 Books to
Remember for 2003, *The
Voice at 3:00 A. M.* was

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also nominated for a National Book Award. The recipient of many prizes, Simic most recently received Canada's Griffin Prize. The poems in this

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collection--spanning two
decades of his
work--present a rich and
varied survey of a
remarkable lyrical
journey. In the Street
Beauty, dark goddess, We

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met and parted As though
we parted not. Like two
stopped watches In a
dusty store window, One
golden morning of time.
Introduced and selected
by the poet-presenter

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Owen Sheers, A Poet's Guide to Britain is a major poetry anthology that ties in with the BBC series of the same name. Owen Sheers passionately believes

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that poems, and particularly poems of place, not only affect us as individuals, but can have the power to mark and define a collective experience -

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our identities, our
country, our land. He
has chosen six powerful
poems, all personal
favourites, and all
poems that have become
part of the way we see

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our landscape. The
anthology follows a
similar format to the
BBC series itself, while
also offering paper
chains of poems about
the landscape and nature

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of Britain, transcripts
of contemporary poet
interviews, and a short
introduction to each
lead poem.

An expansive collection
of prose-poetry works in

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the style of Japan's
zuihitsu, or "running
brush," explores the
American Book Award-
winning writer's
identities as a family
member, poet, and member

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of varied traditions.
From the author of I Saw
a Man comes a powerful
drama in verse that
captures both the trauma
of modern warfare and
the difficulty of

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transitioning back to normal life after combat. In early 2008, three young friends from Bristol decide to join the army and are deployed to the conflict

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in Afghanistan. Within a short space of time the three men return to the women in their lives—a wife, a mother, a girlfriend—all of whom must now share the

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psychological and
physical aftershocks of
military service.

Written from the points
of view of each soldier,
Sheers explores not only
their experiences in the

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field of battle, but
also the grueling
process of recovery
following a debilitating
injury, the strain of
PTSD on a new marriage,
and the emotional toll

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of survivor's guilt
among soldiers and their
loved ones at home.
Drawing on interviews
with soldiers and their
families, Pink Mist
illuminates the enduring

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human cost of war and
its all too often
devastating effect upon
the young lives pulled
into its orbit. A work
of great dramatic power,
documentary integrity,

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and emotional intensity.
July 2018 marks the 70th
anniversary of the
National Health Service
Act. Owen Sheers, the
author of *Pink Mist* and
the BAFTA nominated *The*

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Green Hollow, has
created a virtuosic
'film-poem' to coincide
with the Vox
Pictures/BBC production
broadcast to mark the
occasion. To Provide All

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People is the intimate story of the N.H.S in British society today. Depicting 24 hours in the service, with a regional hospital at the centre of the action,

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the poem charts an
emotional and
philosophical map of the
N.H.S against the
personal experiences
that lie its heart; from
patients to surgeons,

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porters to midwives.
This is a world of
transformative pains,
triumphs, losses and
celebrations that joins
us all in our universal
experiences of health

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and sickness, birth and death, regardless of race, gender or wealth. Based upon over 70 hours of interviews, the work is punctuated with the historical narrative of

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the birth of the N.H.S
Act - from its origins
in a local miners'
scheme in Tredegar in
Wales, through multiple
hearings, amendments and
battles with the press,

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the B.M.A and the
Conservative party, to
its coming into effect
in July 1948. To Provide
All People is a work
that excavates what the
N.H.S. represents and

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means - on a personal
and national level - and
paints an authentic,
tonal picture of a rare
social phenomenon,
illuminating with
exquisite sensitivity

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and power why the ethos
at its heart should
always be protected.

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[Skirrid Hill](#)

[Ice](#)

**Here is the best of Sheenagh
Pugh's early work: a generous
and wide-ranging selection
from her first four collections,**

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**together with two dozen
previously unpublished pieces
Notable inclusions are the
prize-winning 'M.S.A' and
'Intercity Lullaby', and the
much-anthologised
'Sometimes.' Throughout, a
lively and enquiring mind is**

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**brought to bear on how we
live and die, and how we
might live more equitably.
Sheenagh Pugh approaches
her subject unpredictably,
through Norse saga and
snooker, apartheid and falling
tortoises, in a poetry of**

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**invention and conviction At
the heart of the book is the
Earth Studies sequence, "a
history of the world in 19
poems', and the first major
environmental poem of the
"green" era. Set in the
indeterminate future, it**

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explores the rise of human civilisation, and abuse of the Earth, following them to their logical conclusion: the death of the planet. Ironic, lyrical, penetrating , these poems typify the craft and passion of Sheenagh Pugh's writing.

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Selected Poems ends with a section of Pugh's much-admired translations, of German poets such as Simon Dach, Andreas Gryphius and Christian Hofmann von Hofmannswaldau. One of our most acclaimed

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**poets brings the work of the
great Persian mystic and poet,
Hafez, to a new audience.
There is no poet in our
tradition who carries the
amount of admiration and
devotion that the Persians
have for Hafez. Children learn**

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to sing Hafez poems in the third grade, and almost every family has a copy of the collected Hafez on the dining room table. Robert Bly and the great Islamic scholar Leonard Lewisohn have worked for 15 years on this

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book of Hafez, the first that carries into English his nimbleness, his outrageous humor, his defenses of the private life in the face of the fundamentalists, and the joy of his love poems. He writes in the ghazal form, one of the

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greatest inventions in the history of poetry. This is Rumi's wild younger brother, now brought into an English that makes his genius visible. Seamus Heaney was 'the greatest poet of our age' (Guardian). From his

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remarkable debut in 1966, he pioneered the poetry of our times across five decades of cultural and political change, and was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1995. Field Work, his fifth volume, from 1979, is a collection of

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poems that were among the finest he would ever write. Inspired by the four years that Heaney and his family spent in rural County Wicklow after leaving the violence of Belfast, Field Work is one of the poet's most celebrated

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volumes. The collection contains some of his best-loved poems, 'Oysters', 'Casualty', 'The Otter', 'The Strand at Lough Beg', and 'The Skunk', as well as his defining sequence 'Glanmore Sonnets'.

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Two stories, two different times, but the thread of an ancient tale from the medieval Celtic Mabinogion cycle runs through the lives of twenty-first-century farmer's daughter Rhian and the mysterious Branwen, in this

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**tale by Owen Sheers.
Wounded in Italy, Matthew
O'Connell is seeing out WWII
in a secret government
department spreading rumors
and myths to the enemy. But
when he is given the bizarre
task of escorting a box**

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**containing six raven chicks
from a remote hill farm in
Wales to the Tower of London,
he becomes part of a story
over which he seems to have
no control. Based on
Branwen, daughter of Llyr
from the Mabinogion.**

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In Ice Gillian Clarke turns to the real winters of 2009 and 2010. In their extremity they redefined all the seasons for her. Nature asserted itself and renewed the environment for the imagination. The poem 'Polar' is the poet's point de

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repère, evoking a polar-bear rug she had as a child and here resurrects in a spirit of personal and ecological longing that becomes a creative act. She lives with the planet, its seasons and creatures, in a joyful, anxious

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communion. The book also includes the asked for' and commissioned poems, and the Guardian spreads Clarke has written during her time as National Poet of Wales (2008-2013). She follows in the rich millennium-old Welsh

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tradition of occasional writing going back to the first-known named British poets Aneirin and Taliesin in the sixth century.

New compilation of verse by an important Jamaican-American poet. Dialect verse,

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**standard English poems from
Harlem Shadows, uncollected
works, more. Edited and with
an introduction by Joan R.
Sherman.**

**"This impressive debut
includes poems on a wide
range of themes: from**

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**recollections of a return to
Fiji, to sharper memories of
an adolescence in a rural town
in Wales; from dark
ruminations on farm life to
tender and unconventional
love poems. Owen Sheers has
a talent for visual imagery, a**

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flair for narrative and a grasp of the personal as acute as his awareness of the wider world. His astute portraits of relatives and contemporaries entice us into other lives. The Blue Book is a startlingly good first collection by a

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**young writer of considerable
ability and promise."**

**1944. After the fall of Russia
and the failed D-Day landings,
half of Britain is occupied . . .**

**Young farmer's wife Sarah
Lewis wakes to find her
husband has disappeared,**

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along with all of the men from her remote Welsh village. A German patrol arrives in the valley, the purpose of their mission a mystery. Sarah begins a faltering acquaintance with the patrol's commanding officer, Albrecht,

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and it is to her that he reveals the purpose of his mission - to claim an extraordinary medieval art treasure that lies hidden in the valley. But as the pressure of the war beyond presses in on this isolated community, this

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**fragile state of harmony is
increasingly threatened.**

**[The Angels Knocking on the
Tavern Door](#)**

[Feminine Gospels](#)

[The Revolutionary War](#)

**[Adventures of Joseph Plumb
Martin](#)**

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Corpus

Thirty Poems of Hafez

The Voice at 3:00 A.M.

The Poems of Wilfred Owen

How to Love a Country

The Narrow Road to the

Interior: Poems

White Ravens

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'Should be made compulsory reading . . . If it were up to me this clear-sighted yet emotionally charged hymn to the NHS would be added to the curriculum in every high school from Land's End to John O'Groats with immediate effect.' i newspaper July 2018 marked the 70th

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anniversary of the National Health Service Act. To Provide All People is the intimate story of the NHS in British society today, written by novelist, poet and dramatist Owen Sheers. Depicting 24 hours, with a regional hospital at the centre of the action, the poem charts an emotional

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and philosophical map of the NHS against the personal experiences that lie at its heart; from patients to surgeons, porters to midwives. This is a world of transformative pains, triumphs, losses and celebrations and joins us all in our universal experiences of health and sickness,

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birth and death, regardless of race, gender or wealth. Informed by over seventy hours of interviews, the work is punctuated with the historical narrative of the birth of the NHS Act. To Provide All People was filmed by Vox Pictures/BBC Wales. A tale of impossible love in Nazi-

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occupied Belgium, where forbidden passions have catastrophic consequences. Claire Daussois, the wife of a Belgian resistance worker, shelters a wounded American bomber pilot in a secret attic hideaway. As she nurses him back to health, Claire is drawn into an affair

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that seems strong enough to conquer all--until the brutal realities of war intrude, shattering every idea she ever had about love, trust, and betrayal. Resistance is a tender but tragic love story, told with the same narrative grace and keen eye for human emotion that have

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distinguished all of Anita Shreve's
cherished bestsellers.

A new collection from the renowned
inaugural poet exploring
immigration, gun violence, racism,
LGBTQ issues, and more, in accessible
and emotive verses As presidential
inaugural poet, memoirist, public

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speaker, educator, and advocate, Richard Blanco has crisscrossed the nation inviting communities to connect to the heart of human experience and our shared identity as a country. In this new collection of poems, his first in over seven years, Blanco continues to invite a

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conversation with all Americans. Through an oracular yet intimate and accessible voice, he addresses the complexities and contradictions of our nationhood and the unresolved sociopolitical matters that affect us all. The poems form a mosaic of seemingly varied topics: the Pulse

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Nightclub massacre; an unexpected encounter on a visit to Cuba; the forced exile of 8,500 Navajos in 1868; a lynching in Alabama; the arrival of a young Chinese woman at Angel Island in 1938; the incarceration of a gifted writer; and the poet's abiding love for his partner, who he is finally

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allowed to wed as a gay man. But despite each poem's unique concern or occasion, all are fundamentally struggling with the overwhelming question of how to love this country. Seeking answers, Blanco digs deep into the very marrow of our nation through poems that interrogate our

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past and present, grieve our injustices, and note our flaws, but also remember to celebrate our ideals and cling to our hopes. In the landmark poem "American Wandersong," which forms the center of the book, the poet reveals himself to readers in a disarming and kinetic

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sequence of stanzas, striving to find his place amid the physical and emotional landscapes of our country. Through this groundbreaking volume, Blanco unravels the very fabric of the American narrative and pursues a resolution to the inherent contradiction of our nation's psyche

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and mandate: e pluribus unum (out of many, one). Charged with the utopian idea that no single narrative is more important than another, this book asserts that America could and ought someday to be a country where all narratives converge into one, a country we can all be proud to love

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and where we can all truly thrive.
Unicorns, Almost portrays the short
life of World War II poet Keith
Douglas, from his childhood through
four engagements to his fighting in
the Western desert, his accelerated
education as a poet and his early
death three days after the Normandy

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D-Day landings at the age of twenty-four. It is the story of his Faustian pact with a war that would nurture his unique poetic voice before taking it away. It is also the story of his desperate race to see his poems in print. Widely recognised as the finest poet of World War Two, Keith Douglas

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was championed by Ted Hughes as an important influence. Hughes wrote the introduction to Douglas's *Collected Poems*, published by Faber. *Unicorns, Almost* by Owen Sheers opened at The Swan Hotel, Hay-on-Wye, in May 2018.

When Owen Sheers discovers a book

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in his father's study he stumbles upon the life of an obscure relative: Arthur Cripps, lyric poet and maverick missionary to Rhodesia. Compelled by the description of Cripps' extraordinary life in Africa, Sheers embarks on a journey through contemporary Zimbabwe in an

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attempt to better understand his ancestor's devotion to the country and its people and the dramatic, often bloody, differences that echo across the years.

Boarding an ocean liner with her boyfriend Derek, Beth comes face-to-face with her past in the form of

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Arthur, an ex-lover, which conjures up the memories of their unsavory past, acting as spiritual mediums to fleece the innocent out of their hard-earned money.

Welcome to our war The Two Worlds of Charlie F. is a soldier's view of service, injury and recovery. Moving

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from the war in Afghanistan, through the dream world of morphine-induced hallucinations to the physio rooms of Headley Court, the play explores the consequences of injury, both physical and psychological, and its effects on others as the soldiers fight to win the new battle for

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survival at home. Drawn from the personal experience of the wounded, injured and sick Service personnel involved, Owen Sheers's *The Two Worlds of Charlie F.* premiered at the Theatre Royal Haymarket, London, in January 2012 and toured nationally that summer.

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Corpus - Michael Symmons Roberts'
Whitbread-Prize winning fourth
collection - centres around the body.
Mystical, philosophical and erotic, the
bodies in these poems move between
different worlds - life and after-life,
death and resurrection -
encountering pathologists' blades,

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geneticists' maps and the wounds of love and war. Equally at ease with scripture (Jacob wrestling the Angel in 'Choreography') and science ('Mapping the Genome'), these poems are a thrilling blend of modern and ancient wisdom, a profound and lyrical exploration of the mysteries of

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the body:' So the martyrs took the
lamb./ It tasted rich, steeped in
essence/ Of anchovy. They picked it
clean/ And found within, a goose, its
pink/ Beak in the lamb's mouth like a
tongue.' Ranging effortlessly between
the physical extremes of death - from
putrefaction to purification - and life -

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drought and flood, hunger and satiation - the poems in Corpus speak most movingly of 'living the half-life between two elements', of what it is to be unique and luminously alive.

[110 Poems of Love and Revelation
To Provide All People
Risking Everything](#)

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[Strike Sparks](#)
[Unicorns, Almost](#)
[Ordinary Courage](#)