



PARSIMONY David Troupes

A poetry of watchfulness, of immersion in wilderness and commune with the wild, David Troupes' fine debut is marked by an intensely focused inquisitiveness, delineating landscapes, shifting seasons and their creatures in a meticulous, sparing style, all filtered through a wonderfully lyrical sensibility.'

Robert Alan Jamieson

'If "parsimony" is often equated with meanness, David Troupes reclaims its virtues – "praiseworthy economy in the use of means to pursue an end", as my dictionary puts it. That's a good description of Troupes' poetic method – a sparingness with words that takes him to the heart of things. While there are moments of discovery, joy and celebration, this is no paradise – too many storms, droughts, predators and depressions – and any consolations are hard-won. What warmth there is, is created by the living beings themselves ... There is also a sense, properly veiled, of the sacred – a sense of wonder, and mystery too, for these poems don't instantly yield their meanings. Formally confident, Troupes can pull off both conventional rhymes and unconventional line-breaks, and execute the most startling of shifts with his deft similes.'

Ken Cockburn

THE BOOK

David Troupes' collection *Parsimony* contains poems of possibility and survival. Crafted sometimes with playfulness and always with technical precision, David is eager to stoke that part of us which finds peace in the woods.

In language by turns mellifluous and metallic, in poems which swing between the Scottish Borders and the woods of his native Massachusetts, David Troupes betrays and explores a troubling ambivalence toward our place in the natural world. Interwoven with this thread of difficult rapture are poems of private crisis, offering a hard-won perspective on those days when everything, for no apparent reason, seems wrong.

THE AUTHOR

David Troupes was born in 1979 and grew up in the town of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, a leafy place with good woods and swamps for wandering. He studied English at the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts. In 2005 he completed an MA in Creative Writing at the University of Edinburgh, studying under Robert Alan Jamieson, Dilys Rose and Valerie Gillies. Since then he has gained a wife and a satisfyingly varied job history. His comic art appears regularly in at least one Vermont newspaper, and has been featured in periodicals in Sweden, Portugal and the US – see www.buttercupfestival.com for more information. He currently lives in West Yorkshire, where he works in social housing.

DETAILS

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