

Owen Sheers Skirrid Hill

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Calon - Owen Sheers 2014-01-16

A celebration of the Welsh obsession with rugby from the award-winning author of *Resistance*.

White Ravens - Owen Sheers 2013-03-30

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 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 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.

Feminine Gospels - Carol Ann Duffy 2012-12-13

In *Feminine Gospels*, Carol Ann Duffy draws on the historical, the archetypal, the biblical and the fantastical to create various visions – and revisions – of female identity. Simultaneously stripping 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 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 talent – besides her ear for ordinary eloquence, her gorgeous, powerful, throwaway

lines, her subtlety – is her ventriloquism . . . From verbal nuances to mind-expanding imaginative leaps, her words seem freshly plucked from the minds of non-poets – that is, she makes it look easy' Charlotte Mendelson, *Observer*

Safari - Owen Sheers 2007

Border Country - Raymond Williams 2005-12-23

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 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 in 1964.

[Vi a un hombre](#) - Owen Sheers 2015-09-10

Una novela literaria escrita con el pulso de un thriller. Una magistral exploración de las relaciones humanas, el dolor, la culpa y la redención. «El acontecimiento que les cambió la vida a todos tuvo lugar una tarde de sábado de junio, pocos minutos después de que Michael Turner -pensado que la casa de los Nelson estaba vacía- se colara por la puerta de atrás.» Tras la pérdida de su mujer, Michael Turner se traslada a Londres, al acomodado barrio de Hampstead, donde establece una cercana relación de amistad con los Nelson, la familia que vive en la casa de al lado. Josh, Samantha y sus dos hijas pequeñas representan lo que Michael teme que jamás conseguirá: estabilidad familiar y un hogar. Esta nueva amistad parece servir de cura para Michael

hasta que un día algo cambia radicalmente sus destinos... Entonces, de la noche a la mañana, Michael se encuentra ante un grandísimo dilema moral. Ambientada en el Londres actual, *Vi a un hombre* es una magistral exploración de las relaciones humanas. Owen Sheers acerca al lector a la intimidad de una familia, acomodándonos en sus vidas para poco después ponerlo todo patas arriba. Ganadora del Premio al Libro Galés del año. Ganadora del Somerset Maugham Award. Ganadora de la medalla del Festival Hay Poesía. La crítica ha dicho... «Desde la primera página el lector siente que Sheers dirige magistralmente esta historia. *Vi a un hombre* es la segunda novela de Owen Sheers, un thriller literario ejemplar, inteligente, elegante, hábil, que siempre va un paso por delante del lector.» *The Sunday Times* «*Vi a un hombre* analiza el modo en que las luchas de poder se filtran en nuestras vidas cotidianas, en la comunidad. Sheers ambienta este thriller literario en un barrio londinense bellísimo, Hampstead. Atraviesa la novela el compromiso del autor como poeta para llegar hasta las profundidades del corazón humano, por muy enfermo o banal que sea. Esta búsqueda se personifica en el carácter multidimensional del protagonista, Michael, que es al mismo tiempo muchos hombres en uno... y ¿qué puede ser más realista que eso?» *The Times*

Study and Revise for AS/A-level: Seamus Heaney: New Selected Poems, 1966-1987 - Luke McBratney 2017-02-20

Enable students to achieve their best grade in AS/A-level English Literature with this year-round course companion; designed to instil in-depth textual understanding as students read, analyse and revise Seamus Heaney: Selected Poems throughout the course. This Study and Revise guide: - Increases students' knowledge of Seamus Heaney: Selected Poems as they progress through the detailed commentary and contextual information written by experienced teachers and examiners - Develops understanding of characterisation, 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 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 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 students' extended writing techniques through targeted advice on planning and structuring a successful essay

Resistance - Owen Sheers 2011-07-07

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, 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, 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 fragile state of harmony is increasingly threatened.

Unicorns, Almost - Owen Sheers 2018-07-05

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 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 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.

Look We Have Coming to Dover! - Daljit Nagra 2010-12-09

Look We Have Coming to Dover! is the most acclaimed debut collection of poetry published in recent years, as well as one of the most relevant and accessible. Nagra, whose own parents came to England from the Punjab in the 1950s, draws on both English and Indian-English traditions to tell stories of alienation, assimilation, aspiration and love, from a stowaway's first footprint on Dover Beach to the disenchantment of subsequent generations.

Mamiaith - OWEN 2019-08-08

Ness Owen lives on Ynys Môn off the North Wales coast. This is her first collection. All of the poems are in English, 6 are also provided in Welsh. The poems journey from family to politics and belonging: an underlying connection to home, that feeds a desire to write in the Mother tongue that she speaks, but did not learn to write fluently.

Inferno: The Divine Comedy I - Dante 2006-03-30

Describing Dante's descent into Hell midway through his life with Virgil as a guide, *Inferno* depicts a cruel underworld in which desperate figures are condemned to eternal damnation for committing one or more of seven deadly sins. As he descends through nine concentric circles of increasingly agonising torture, Dante encounters doomed souls including the pagan Aeneas, the liar Odysseus, the suicide Cleopatra, and his own political enemies, damned for their deceit. Led by leering demons, the poet must ultimately journey with Virgil to the deepest level of all. For it is only by encountering Satan, in the heart of Hell, that he can truly understand the tragedy of sin.

Skirrid Hill - Owen Sheers 2005

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 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. "

Mother - Maya Angelou 2006-04-11

Poet, writer, performer, teacher, and director Maya Angelou was raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and then moved to San Francisco. In addition to her bestselling autobiographies, beginning with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, she has also written a cookbook, *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table* five poetry collections, including *I Shall Not Be Moved* and *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*; and the celebrated poems "On the Pulse of Morning," which she read at the inauguration of President William Jefferson Clinton, and "Amazing Peace," which she read at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., in December 2005.

The Blue Book - Owen Sheers 2000

The Blue Book includes poems on a range of themes, from recollections of time spent in Fiji, to sharper memories of an adolescence spent in the tough streets of a small, rural town; from dark ruminations on farm life to tender and unconventional love poems.

Songs of Ourselves - Cambridge International Examinations 2014-07-31

This series contains poetry and prose anthologies composed of writers from across the English-speaking world.

Azaleas - So-wöl Kim 2007

Available for the first time in English, *Azaleas* is a captivating collection of poems by a master of the early Korean modernist style. Published in 1925, *Azaleas* is the only collection Kim Sowol (1902-1934) produced during his brief life, yet he remains one of Korea's most beloved and well-known poets. His work is a delightful and sophisticated blend of the images, tonalities, and rhythms of traditional Korean folk songs with

surprisingly modern forms and themes. Sowol is also known for his unique and sometimes unsettling perspective, expressed through loneliness, longing, and a creative use of dream imagery—a reflection of Sowol's engagement with French Symbolist poetry. *Azaleas* recounts the journey of a young Korean as he travels from the northern P'yongyang area near to the cosmopolitan capital of Seoul. Told through an array of voices, the poems describe the young man's actions as he leaves home, his experiences as a student and writer in Seoul, and his return north. Although considered a landmark of Korean literature, *Azaleas* speaks to readers from all cultures. An essay by Sowol's mentor, the poet Kim Ok, concludes the collection and provides vital insight into Sowol's work and life. This elegant translation by David R. McCann, an expert on modern Korean poetry, maintains the immediacy and richness of Sowol's work and shares with English-language readers the quiet beauty of a poet who continues to cast a powerful spell on generations of Korean readers.

The Two Worlds of Charlie F. - Owen Sheers
2012-07-31

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

Mametz - Owen Sheers 2017-03-02

"For years afterwards the farmers found them - the wasted young, turning up under their plough blades." So run the blunt, grimly beautiful opening lines of the Welsh poet Owen Sheers's elegy for the

men, 4,000 of them from the 38th (Welsh) Division, who were killed or wounded in the Battle of Mametz Wood in July 1916. Sheers revisits that chapter of carnage in a stirring, sprawling promenade show. He draws on the writings of two survivors in particular. One is the poet David Jones whose fractured, enervated, modernist response to his war-time experiences, *In Parenthesis*, was hailed as a "work of genius" by TS Eliot. The other key influence is the writer Llewelyn Wyn Griffith. driven to wondering how the sun "could shine on this mad cruelty and on the quiet peace of an upland tarn near Snowdon"... We end up in dark woods and a place of numb desolation, bombarded by words that pierce the heart and vignettes that capture the stomach-churning sacrifice. The finest commemoration of the First World War centenary I've seen to-date, this deserves a much longer life.'Dominic Cavendish, *Daily Telegraph*
Mametz by Owen Sheers was premiered by National Theatre Wales in June 2014. It is one of the set plays on WJEC's A level Drama specification. This dual edition combines the original English-language play with a Welsh-language translation by Ceri Wyn Jones, one of Wales's most eminent poets.

Pink Mist - Owen Sheers 2017-04-04

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 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 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 psychological and physical aftershocks of military service. Written from the points of view of each soldier, Sheers explores not only their experiences in the 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 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 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, and emotional intensity.

[AS/a-Level English Literature Workbook: Skirrid Hill](#) - Helen Mars 2018-09-28

Check, reinforce and improve critical skills and textual understanding to give students the best chance of success in their AS/A-level English Literature exams. Containing over 150 ready-made activities for Skirrid Hill - with comprehensive answers provided online - this write-in Workbook: - Actively develops knowledge and skills as students practise questions that cover plot and structure, themes, characterisation, form and language, contexts and critical approaches - Ensures that every student achieves real progress with activities that gradually build in difficulty, plus additional 'Challenge yourself' tasks to target the top grades - Helps students make the transition from GCSE to AS/A-level, with guidance from experienced examiners and teachers on higher-level skills, such as analysing structure and using literary terminology - Focuses on exam skills with a separate section that includes practice essay questions and advice on: question types; essay planning; writing about extracts and whole texts; using evidence and context - Encourages independent learning as students use their Workbook at home or in class, throughout the course or for revision and exam preparation - Supports the AQA A, WJEC Eduqas and WJEC AS/A-level English Literature specifications through a wide range of activities suitable for every exam board

The Poetry of Owen Sheers & Seamus Heaney: A Study Guide for WJEC Eduqas A-Level English Literature - Izzy Ingram 2019-08-29

Everything you need to know about WJEC Eduqas' A-Level English Literature paper on the poetry of Seamus Heaney and Owen Sheers in one approachable and engaging study guide. Includes

tips on how to meet each of the assessment objectives, detailed discussions of key themes, advice on how to write a good essay and a full exemplar answer. Whilst other textbooks give you a general overview of a course or subject, Notable guides focus closely on a specific exam board, taking you through their requirements and demands, so that you know exactly how to achieve the very best grade possible. For more information, visit us at www.notableguides.co.uk

To Provide All People - Owen Sheers 2019-06-03

July 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service Act. Owen Sheers, the author of *Pink Mist* and the BAFTA nominated *The Green Hollow*, has created a virtuosic 'film-poem' for Vox Pictures/BBC, broadcast to mark the occasion. *To Provide All 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, 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, porters to midwives. This is a world of transformative pains, triumphs, losses and celebrations that joins us all in our universal experiences of health 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 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, 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 means - on a personal and national level - and paints an authentic, tonal picture of a rare social phenomenon, illuminating with exquisite sensitivity and power why the ethos at its heart should always be protected.

My Family and Other Superheroes - Jonathan Edwards 2014-03-01

My Family and Other Superheroes introduces a

vibrant and unique new voice from Wales. The superheroes in question are a motley crew. Evel Knievel, Sophia Loren, Ian Rush, Marty McFly, a bicycling nun and a recalcitrant hippo - all leap from these pages and jostle for position, alongside valleys mams, dads and bamps, described with great warmth. Other poems focus on the crammed terraces and abandoned high streets where a working-class and Welsh nationalist politics is hammered out. This is a post-industrial valleys upbringing re-imagined through the prism of pop culture and surrealism. If the author's subjects have something in common with RS Thomas, or even Terry Street-era Douglas Dunn, his technique and approach owe at least as much to contemporary American poets like James Tate and David Wojahn. "Serious, hilarious and a beautiful event, *My Family and Other Superheroes* offers the reader enchanting generosity, an alert expansiveness, deep skill, unaffected surprise and pure joy. I have rarely read a poetry collection that captures and transforms the magic of our ordinariness so superbly and honestly."

- David Morley

A School Shakespeare ... - William Shakespeare 1928

I Saw a Man - Owen Sheers 2015-06-09

An utterly stunning novel of love, 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, 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 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 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.

In Parenthesis - David Jones 2003-07-31

"This writing has to do with some things I saw, felt, and was part of": with quiet modesty, David Jones begins a work that is among the most powerful imaginative efforts to grapple with the carnage of the First World War, a book celebrated by W.B. Yeats and T.S. Eliot as one of the masterpieces of modern literature. Fusing poetry and prose, gutter talk and high music, wartime terror and ancient myth, Jones, who served as an infantryman on the Western Front, presents a picture at once panoramic and intimate of a world of interminable waiting and unforeseen death. And yet throughout he remains alert to the flashes of humanity that light up the wasteland of war.

The Gospel of Us - Owen Sheers 2012-04-02

In *The Gospel of Us*, Owen Sheers reimagines as fiction his play *The Passion*, a three-day dramatisation set 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 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 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 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.

Gen - Jonathan Edwards 2018-11-01

Gen is the eagerly awaited second collection by Jonathan Edwards, whose debut, *My Family and Other Superheroes*, won the Costa Prize for Poetry in 2015. This accessible and critically acclaimed young poet has beaten off 'second collection syndrome' with a book of sharp yet beautifully warm and humane poems. The title refers to people of Edwards' generation and his recognition of the preoccupations that he shares of this age-group. There are several terrific love poems and poems of romantic yearning, which reflect this. In addition, Edwards further mines his family for writing which is at once intimate, generous and wry. 'Harry Houdini on Newport Bridge, 1905' relates an anecdote where his grandfather, aged 15, makes mischief in the watching crowd. And 'My Father Crashes a Car, 1965' is a similarly warm and slightly surreal retrieval of a memory from his father. Several of the poems in *Gen* have already won prizes, and the book must be a contender for more shortlists. Whatever the prize judges think, the poetry reading public will again warm to this poet. Winner of the People's Choice Award, Wales Book of the Year 2019 'As always Edwards' writing is at once bold and sweeping whilst also managing to maintain a homely and intimate voice that feels personal.' – Ben Ray Throughout the collection, demotic patter is combined with virtuoso craft. What can you say about a sonnet like 'On Hearing You Have Lost Your New Love', at once bitter, tender and true? What can you say about a gut punch like the ending of 'Aberfan'? Or about a title like 'Samuel Taylor Coleridge Walking from The Queen's Head, Gray's Inn, to Honsby's and Co., Cornhill, to Buy an Irish Lottery Ticket, November 1793'? I will say this: *Gen* is a vibrant, brilliant book, and Edwards is one of my favourite writers. – Joe Caldwell Edwards shows a new breadth of vision, and the ability to encompass tragedy. His poems about Aberfan and Tryweryn have the air of instant classics. – The Lonely Crowd
A Poet's Guide to Britain - Owen Sheers 2009-10-29
 Introduced and selected by the poet-presenter

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

Selected Poems - William Butler Yeats 1921

Study and Revise for AS/A Level - Luke McBratney 2011-05

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 study companions with exam-specific advice to help you to get the grade you need.

Philip Allan Literature Guide (for A-Level): Skirrid Hill - Luke McBratney 2013-01-04

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activities - Top 10 quotes PLUS FREE REVISION RESOURCES at

www.philipallan.co.uk/literatureguidesonline, 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 unmissable websites, and answers to tasks set in the guide.

In the Green Tree - Alun Lewis 2006

Through his letters home and six short stories. Alun Lewis paints a vibrant picture of life in India as a British serviceman during World War II. Intimate, vivid, observational, and always filled with emotion. *In the Green Tree* is a rare literary example of one Welshman's experience of empire and war.

The Gospel of Us - Owen Sheers 2012

This novella by Owen Sheers retells the Passion of Christ, based on the author's groundbreaking National Theatre of Wales play starring Michael Sheen and performed over three days in Port Talbot.

The Green Hollow - Owen Sheers 2019-04-04

In 1966 a coal slag heap collapsed on 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 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 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 geographic borders. Based

on the BBC 1 production, *The Green Hollow* is a beautifully rendered picture of a time and place - and a life-altering event whose effects are irrevocable.

Welsh Retrospective - Dannie Abse 2008-07

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 he writes movingly about the Cardiff of his childhood, home of his beloved Bluebirds football team, and also about the small village of Ogmores-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 includes such well known and well-loved poems as *Return to Cardiff* and *In the Theatre* alongside many previously uncollected poems. Some poems draw on Jewish writings, others on Welsh language literature.

Field Work - Seamus Heaney 2014-01-13

Field Work is the record of four years during which Seamus Heaney left the violence of Belfast to settle in a country cottage with his family in Glanmore, County Wicklow. Heeding "an early warning system to get back inside my own head," Heaney wrote poems with a new strength and maturity, moving from the political concerns of his landmark volume *North* to a more personal, contemplative approach to the world and to his own writing. In *Field Work* he "brings a meditative music to bear upon fundamental themes of person and place, the mutuality of ourselves and the world" (Denis Donoghue, *The New York Times Book Review*).

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The Dust Diaries - Owen Sheers 2004

When Owen Sheers discovers a book in his father's study he stumbles upon the life of an obscure relative: Arthur Cripps, lyric poet and maverick missionary to Southern Rhodesia. Compelled by the description of Cripps' extraordinary life in Africa, Sheers embarks on a journey through contemporary Zimbabwe and into the secrets of the past in an 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. Arriving in Africa at the turn of the last century, Cripps leaves behind him a past he hopes to extinguish in the crucible of his self-sacrificial missionary work. After he establishes his own mission at Maronda Mashanu, Southern Rhodesia, the neighbouring European community soon grow suspicious of Cripps' unorthodox methods, and conflict with the British South Africa Company ensues - especially over the perennially contentious issue of land reform. Better understood by the Africans he lives with, Cripps devotes his life to defending their interests, walking and running for miles across the veld between settlements and serving as a chaplain in East Africa in the First World War. The Shona community name him Mpandi, 'The man who walks like thunder', and when Cripps dies, fifty years after his arrival in his adopted country, he is honoured at his funeral with the burial songs of a Shona Chief. The incredible story of Cripps' African legacy, Owen's travels in his footsteps and the volatile history of a nation are all told in a series of layered narratives that distort the boundaries between biography and fiction. Ranging from the dawn of the twentieth century to its close, *The Dust Diaries* is a richly peopled, bold and beautiful testimony - an investigation into the nature of love, loss, family and belonging, and the story of how one man's life can resonate down the years in the lives of others.