

Advance Information

The Anvil's Prayer

By James W. Wood

The Anvil's Prayer finds magic in the ordinary: heroism in the average person and beauty in the least likely places. Celebrating the wonder that surrounds us in the most mundane events of our everyday lives, James W Wood's first full-length collection turns from praise to elegy, from excoriating criticism to exaltation, in language which is as understated as it is precise and daring.

Reviews of earlier work

'James W. Wood's 'The Theory of Everything' negotiates the daily business of living with insight and feeling'

Carl Phillips, winner of the Solomon Guggenheim Memorial Award

'James W Wood's The Theory of Everything is an exceptional first volume of verse, full of an awareness of the richness of everyday lives.'

Professor Emeritus Brian Cox on The Theory of Everything

'James W Wood's poetry couples a finely tuned ear with a remarkable mix of passion, idealism and down-to-earth good sense. Indeed, 'The Song of Scotland' – a powerful piece by any measure – may well be this century's first significant state-of-the-nation poem.'

Andrew Philip, author of 'The Ambulance Box'

'James W. Wood is a talent to be reckoned with: both lyrical and humane, he has a technical ability with language that shines through every poem and a versatility that enables him to range effortlessly from elegy to satire.'

Jane McKie, winner of the 2008 Scottish book of the year

'James W Wood cares about the precision and possibilities of language and about honesty when dissecting the subtleties of human emotion, neither one to the exclusion of the other. His work is a pleasure to read and, when questioning or provocative, none the less pleasurable for that.'

Rob Mackenzie, author of The Opposite of Cabbage

About the Author

James W Wood was born in Scotland and educated at schools in Canada and the UK before winning a place to study English at Cambridge, where his first book of poetry, *Swingtime*, was published with financial support from the university.

After leaving Cambridge, James won a scholarship to work at his writing with 1992 Nobel prize winner in literature, Derek Walcott, in the United States. Since leaving North America for a second time, James has worked as a copywriter and media executive on four continents. He has also reviewed for *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Poetry Review*, *The London Magazine*, *The Daily Telegraph* and many others, and his poems have appeared in the above journals and further anthologies, including *Faber and Faber's First Pressings* (1998). James is the author of two other previous books of poetry, *The Theory of Everything* (*HappenStance*, 2006), and *Inextinguishable* (*Knucker Press*, 2008).

Writing as Craig Sterling, James is the author of the action thriller *Stealing Fire* (*Leamington Books*, 2011) which was shortlisted for the book to film category at the 2011 Rome Film Festival and received warm reviews in Ireland and the UK.



Ward Wood Publishing,
Flat 1, Hyraddug, High Street,
Dyserth, Denbighshire, LL18 6AB

01745 820 949

www.wardwoodpublishing.co.uk

mike@wardwoodpublishing.co.uk

Poetry Collection

ISBN: 978-1-908742-15-5

216 x 140 mm

£8.99 pbk

80 pp

May 2013

Trade distribution:

UK Central Books

www.centralbooks.com

Gardners