



The Floating Bridge: Prose Poems

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I was deeply taken by David Shumate's The Floating Bridge. There is none better working now at this very difficult genre, the prose poem. - Jim Harrison Even the most enthusiastic partisans of the form will tell you that good prose poems are nearly as rare as good sonnets, the manatee, or Republicans with a social conscience, and thus the canny and compelling prose poems of David Shumate's The Floating Bridge are especially welcome.

The Floating Bridge: Prose Poems Details

Date : Published January 28th 2008 by University of Pittsburgh Press (first published January 1st 2008)

ISBN : 9780822959892

Author : David Shumate

Format : Paperback 80 pages

Genre : Poetry, Contemporary

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Biscuits says

I like the conciseness of these prose poems. Witty without being obnoxious and allegorical without being confusing.

Favorites:

Metaphors

Wisdom

The Headless Saints

The Island of Nirvana

OM

Jacob Sam-La Rose says

A strong collection, if not quite as strong as his first - High Water Mark.

Charlie O'Hay says

Charming and inventive, Shumate's prose poems spark the imagination.

Robert Rhodes says

Some of the best prose poems I have read in a long time

Puff Of says

One of my favorite poets, and a lovely and gracious human to boot!

Leonard says

This excellent book of prose poems - the best I've read since Morton Marcus' Moments Without Names - is the kind of poetry that stretches the reader's imagination. Unforgettable images are forged by the selection and use of words in these poems. Great book to introduce someone to prose poetry, or for someone who isn't

convinced that prose poems matter.

Dan Butterfass says

After reading laudatory blurbs penned by Jim Harrison and David Wojahn, I was not expecting these prose poems to indulge so deeply, but rather deliver far more than, the traditional ethos of the prose poem - i.e. self-consciously intellectual wit - so as admiring as I was of some individual poems, I wasn't entirely carried away.

Andrea says

Lovely and powerful prose poetry.

Cindy Cunningham says

I am generally not impressed by poetry that calls itself "prose," but I decided to branch out and see what I could find. In addition to a select few others, I discovered The Floating Bridge. While reading each poem, I would find myself balking at the notion that this was poetry until the very end...his ability to turn the poem on its head and make it spin was lovely. In a few of the poems, he also flew into the fantastic in the second or third syntactical structure and took me right along with him.

Definitely SLOWLY changing my mind about the possibility that some works can be both prose AND poetry (grudgingly....)

M says

I likely would have enjoyed this collection a great deal more if I read these poems on their own, discovered them one by one by two in the wild, but together, they dulled.

Romie says

Although nearly all of the poems started strong, a disappointing percentage ended with smug banality. I spent a lot of my reading time mildly disgruntled. However, this book will stay on my shelf because there were a couple poems I really loved, especially "Zero."

Blogbaas Van 'tVliegend Eiland says

9,5/10

Noel says

While a little uneven, the collection features several poems that are as good as any by masters like Edson.

Jamison says

I couldn't read this without constantly comparing it to his first book.

Both books are collections of prose poems but where High Water Mark creates a special, believable surreality out of the commonplace, the poems in The Floating Bridge are much less disparate. Each section in The Floating Bridge has a narrower scope than the poems in High Water Mark.

Although these poems are enjoyable and the book itself is excellently crafted (it's a much more focused meditation than his first book), I still found myself wanting the energy and excitement that filled High Water Mark.
