



WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE

brian patten, benjamin zaphaniah, jan oskar hansen, ruth padel, alan brownjohn, peter knaggs, john kinsella

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The Rue Bella magazine was considered to be at the cutting edge of poetry during its production years between 1998 and 1993. Not only did it have some of the biggest names around (Benjamin Zephaniah, Brian Patten, Ruth Padel, Michael Horovitz, John Kinsella, Alan Brownjohn, Peter Knaggs, Ed Mycude, Jan Oskar Hansen and Virgil Suarez, all included here) but offered a stage for the most exciting up-and-coming talent of the period.

Here are some of the best pieces of the period, though we've managed to keep a few classics up our sleeve for a second volume if that seems appropriate.

'Keep up the good work. Literature needs more people like you.' John Martin, Black Sparrow Press

'The best presented publication on the small press market by far.' John Allan Hirst

'A maverick minded enterprise.' City Life

'May I, apropos of nothing, recommend the Rue Bella.' Roger McGough

'I do look forward to reading the Rue Bella.' Nicholas Royle, Time Out

'Some really good work.' Brian Patten

'This is happening now.' Martin Carr, 'The Boo Radleys'

So then, where were we?

Oh, that's right... after producing eight volumes of 'The Rue Bella' collections, as well as three volumes by individual poets, both of us Bird brothers were pulled under by the demands of growing families compounded by the fatigue that sets in once you've put some serious miles on the small press poetry clock. It's no exaggeration to say that things have changed enormously in the meantime in the world we left behind; where once there were hours spent building websites out of bits of twine and pritt-stick, and getting books published by printers who normally dealt with laminating curry-house menus because they were the cheapest - now there are all the benefits of a mature e-publishing world. No longer does visibility depend on the cash-strapped poetry buyers in the high street, and lugging boxes of books from the backdoor of the printer's is a thing of the past.

Yes, there is a nostalgia that inevitably goes along with recalling those days, but there's also a sense of jubilation about the possibilities that have now opened up, allowing not just ourselves to produce this first 'best of' collection without breaking our backs, but also to those thousands of younger folk out there who might want to start up their own press. There's really nothing stopping you - and if you're reading this, now,

wondering whether you should - then stop thinking and get doing. We may be a few years down the track and a few years none the wiser, but what time does allow you to appreciate is just how valuable certain endeavours really were in your younger days. For both of us The Rue Bella remains one of our proudest achievements - not just in the quality of the poetry (though it's gratifying to see just how much has, we think, stood the test of time so well), but because we simply did it and have the line of books on the shelves to prove it. Virtue, said Carols Williams, is in the effort. If Rue Bella were a piece of rock, those would be the words running all the way down the middle. We sincerely hope you think the effort was worth it.

The cover for this collection comes, as so often in our earlier volumes, from the lens of our dear friend Greg Piggott.

The passage of time was never required to appreciate either his talent or his warm embrace of life . Here's to you, sir.

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From reader reviews:

Mark McKinney:

This WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This kind of WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE without we understand teach the one who examining it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE can bring whenever you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE having fine arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Kimberly Lunceford:

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Jill Beery:

WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource info that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

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