



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 Mycue, 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:

Lisa Maurer:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they are still students or it for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and important the book WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE. All type of book can you see on many resources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Joseph Sutton:

The actual book WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE will bring one to the new experience of reading a book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to read, this book very ideal to you. The book WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE is much recommended to you to read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Elaine Davenport:

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Sunny Weaver:

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