

Pocket full of whispers

by

Keith Robert Bray

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Second Chance

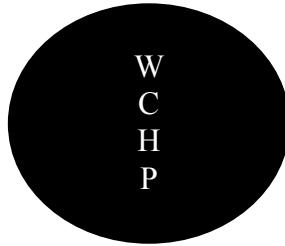
Supporting Mental Health in Performing Arts

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Second Chance

You may need it next

Close Friends

This little book of poetry is dedicated to all my close friends and family. And to all the extraordinary people who have influenced and enhanced my life in ways I never could have imagined possible.

With more than just thanks to Peter Beverley, Bob Frith, Paul Kershaw, Katerina and Ankaret El Haj, Xochitl Tuck, Laura Barnes, Lorna Barter, Cam Ringel, Chris Bear, Penny and Shadow and Dave from Tottenham Chances, Kitty Reford, the Sidcup and Bexley crew, Jill Penny, Fiona Frank, Wendy and Chris Pointon from Market Rasen.

Most of the poems are to a large extent inspired by the physical world of form, shape, substance and location. Things observed or confronted by stimuli outside of the confessional and the subjective, though both approaches interweave with one another at certain points in other poems.

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Extract Only

Coarse Naked

Specific

Mined to the core
No unessential trappings
To divert the meaning

Stated

In no uncertain terms
Without recourse
To florid bravura

Unrefined

Crude rock of earth
Wrought unshaped
Stripped down to the bone

Skeletal

Basic elements
Abstracted from source
Coarse, naked unadorned

Plain

Unpolished surface
Untreated pure
Hewn from granite stone

Concise sentiments

Cut to size
Abrasive-edged tool rubbing
Straight through to the raw.

Waving at the Moon

She waved at the moon
Hoping for the moon
To wave back
Then continued to eat
Her fish and chips

A gentle soul
No trouble here
A well respected member
Of a discerning community
That protects its own

Now she's
Pointing to the birds
Laughing at the grass
While discoursing
And conversing with the trees

Winking in the eye
Of imagination
Redefining
Our all too precious
Sense of sanity.

Mannequin Bride

The bride of gloom
Stares out at me
From the shop window
Forever poised in Limbo
Awaiting her destiny

Sleek and svelte
In her eggshell-hued wedding world
A perfect 'dream come true'
Freeze-framed for eternity
And for all to see

Her knowing 'Gioconda smile'
Averting the fear inside
A hint of sadness in her eyes
Carefully disguised
In lace-edged veils and flowing trails

Naive to the fickle ways of love
Or the brief desires of the flesh
Standing on the threshold of life
Chaste and pure
And ready to make her vows
All in white under the heavens above.

Bold

Go splash our names
All over town
With bold brush strokes
And angry marks
Splattered
In smears and splodges
Across the temple walls

Tell everyone we've arrived
In no uncertain terms
Eager to bring down
The gated palaces of Babylon

Our incensed words
Encoded
In living actions
Immediate
Without the yoke of restriction

Slick, sure
Certain of our intentions
And whisked
To wild abandon
Our inner urges set free.

Reedy River

Salmon Sally
Sallies forth
Through the reedy reeds
Of the river's realm

Ducks and dives
At ease above
The submerged
Underwater forest glades

Moves swift
Within the lightless tunnel mazes
With inherited urbane finesse

Drives into the swelling surges
Spirit possessed
Bound by nature's laws
Entwined cog spinning
In the all-consuming motion

Merging
Without human emotion
Into the arcs
Of existence.

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