



Finders Keepers: Selected Prose, 1971-2001

Seamus Heaney

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Whether autobiographical, topical, or specifically literary, these writings circle the central preoccupying questions of Seamus Heaney's career: "How should a poet properly live and write? What is his relationship to be to his own voice, his own place, his literary heritage and the contemporary world?"

Along with a selection from the poet's three previous collections of prose (*Preoccupations*, *The Government of the Tongue*, and *The Redress of Poetry*), the present volume includes Heaney's finest lectures and a rich variety of pieces not previously collected in volume form, ranging from short newspaper articles to radio commentaries. In its soundings of a wide range of poets -- Irish and British, American and Eastern European, predecessors and contemporaries -- *Finders Keepers* is, as its title indicates, "an announcement of both excitement and possession."

Finders Keepers: Selected Prose, 1971-2001 Details

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Author : Seamus Heaney

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Duff says

Again and again, I felt that I was sitting in a room with a brilliant friend discussing poetry, poets and poetics. The wonderful thing is that I can go back and savor his wise thoughts again and again through this fine book of essays. Many times I simply put the book down to think about, grasp and sometimes challenge his analyses. But, so often I was introduced to in a new way to poets, particularly contemporary Irish poets that I knew only in passing...having read a poem or two. Heaney makes it clear why they are important, what is most interesting in their work and why the reader should make an effort to find their body of work. That is the kind of delightful reading experience I try to search out...and sometimes find. Highly recommended.

Alfredo says

A poet on poetry goes beyond poetry and takes you to human condition, a chapter that touches the Irish divisive problematica and offers it a heart. A chapter on Eliot that beautifully throws out such a concept as "auditive imagination". Another surveying poetry, what it is good for? Some poets moan and in their moaning we know we are not alone.

Shelly Dennison says

Fascinating to dip into even if some of it was a little over my head. Plenty to think about.

Eric says

Anthony Hecht put this on his short list of prose works from which poets can learn more of their craft.

Chris Hall says

This collection of essays from Seamus Heaney has taught me more about successful academic prose than any other single book, class, or instructor. Heaney's "word hoard" makes him as successful and skilled a prose writer as he is a poet, and this is worth picking up and reading simply for the beauty of the language.

And of course, this book is a must-have for anyone interested in Heaney's poetry, or poetry in general, for that matter.

Paul says

some of the best essays about poets and poetry i've ever read...really excellent content!
