

Riding in Boxcars

Glenn K. Currie

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Glenn K. Currie is no new comer to the writing of poetry. He had been a poet for forty years before publishing his first collection in 2004, the successful "Daydreams." His second foray, "Riding in Boxcars," is the record of an expedition; an expedition of discovery, a journey that has no destination, and his poems are the observations docketed in his traveler's journal. As he mentions in his introduction, "We ride through life in boxcars of our own choosing...The rides can be brief or lengthy, and take us far or nowhere." Providing considerable value addition to this book is the complementary color photograph that accompanies each poem; each picture poetic in composition, and each poem, a portrait in words.

The fifty seven poems that comprise this anthology range from his days in the Navy-"Navy Swim Call - 1966," to satirical political comment-"The Emperors Clothes," the Vietnam war-"Sightseeing," bringing up a child-"Saturday Mornings With Lara," a desperate plea from the obese-"A Fat Man's Dilemma," and the average citizen's recurring and despairing confrontation with the IRS-"Taxes." The poet's avid love for nature is reflected in "Autumn Rain," "Birches," "Chatham Bars," and his lovely description of "Spring." The fact that he is a sports fan is easily evident in "The First Run," "Fall Championships," and "The Game." Golfers worldwide will sympathize with his wry acknowledgement of the most frustrating game in the world- in "Golf."

Mr. Currie does not restrict himself to any single poetic form; his writing belies the myth that one has to be well versed in poetry appreciation to truly understand the medium. His repertoire ranges from the standard rhythmic, to the Japanese haiku style-"Some Loose Haiku" and "Fortune Cookie Haiku," the quatrain-"The Boxcars," "The First Run," and "Fall Championships," and to blank verse-"Running Rapids," and "Wandering in Cemeteries." The binding factor in all his poems is the humorous, sometimes sardonic, but always compassionate nuances in his writing. In "Aden Beach Club - 1966" for instance, he observes-"We drank gin and tonics, / In the empty club. / Quinine for malaria, we joked. / Later we sat on the sand, / And watched the sun set, / On the British Empire."

Whatever the style, the message comes clearly through- Glenn Currie is a true-blue poet in total control of his medium. In "Child of the City," he expresses poignantly-"She was a child, / Already bent with age. / Covers of a book, / With the center / Ripped out." In "Fortune Cookie Haiku," the poet's perceptive insight into human nature is clearly evident-"Good looking bodies, / Often have a fatal flaw. / The person inside." How true. In "Wandering in Cemeteries," he writes-"A city of souls, / Filled with regrets. / Unfinished stories, / Written in stone. / Read by those / Wandering in cemeteries." Glenn Currie's contemporary poems are an ideal introduction to anyone who desires to enter the magical and mystical world of poetry. His lucid, accessible style and passion ensure that you fall in love with the medium at first reading. What better example, than his tribute to a "Rose"- "She emerged shyly, / Slowly shedding wrappings. / Naked. Blushing. / Soft layers opening / To gentle touch. / Beauty begging, / To be inhaled. / Incense from a smoldering fire, / Glowing red."

Glenn K. Currie, currently a business and stock market consultant, is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and a former Naval Officer. He also has experience in Little League management,

warehouse working, door-to-door candy sales, and as a CEO and CFO in corporate America. Above and beyond all else, he has always been a humorist, essayist and poet.

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