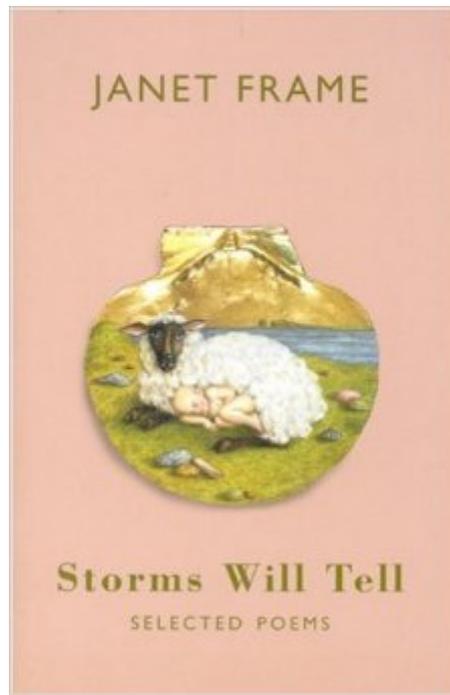


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Storms Will Tell: Selected Poems



Synopsis

Frame (1924-2004) was one of New Zealand's foremost modern writers, best-known for her prizewinning novels and for the three-volume autobiography later adapted by Jane Campion into her film *An Angel at My Table*. These poems illustrate the shape of the poet's life: her childhood and later years in mental hospitals blighted by misdiagnosis of schizophrenia; her travels around the world; her life as a writer and return to New Zealand; growing older and facing illness and death. There are love poems, meditations on mortality, flashes of humor and startling imagery. And always she celebrates the power of the human imagination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The avid Frame reader who, like me, has enjoyed *Living in the Maniototo* (Recipient of the prestigious Commonwealth Writers Prize) will know that Frame's poetry is dazzling. When a poem interrupts the flow of an author's prose in a novel, the reader can still rely on what came before and what is coming afterwards to understand the poem. But in a collection of poems, we are on our own and yes it can be a difficult experience (but reading Shakespeare is the same isn't it) but it can be rewarding and very moving too.

This book compiles a selection of Frame's poetry, including the posthumously released "Goose Bath," which was awarded the 2007 poetry prize in her native New Zealand, resulting in some controversy among the local literary set. Although a talented and original prose writer, Frame's poetry is generally uneven; fleetingly lyric at best and ploddingly pedestrian at worst. That is not to

say that this volume is without its highlights, but the vast majority of these superior poems (one still cannot call them great on the order of Rilke's idol Rilke) are those from the previously published "Pocket Mirror." I recommend readers interested in checking out Frame's poetry purchase a used copy of this slim volume from the sixties before paying for this posthumous collection. Better yet, skip Frame's poems (the limitations of which she herself freely acknowledged) and read (or re-read) one of her novels.

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