

Dear **Heart** & otheR poems 000

By Ken W. Simpson

WHY I LIKE IT: Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes... *Simpson's musings are cynically soothing; striking and cording notes to my liking. He writes in short store, leaves me wanting more: "Selectivity skims the surface of reality like a razor sliding over glass..." If that line isn't 'the cat's ass' it's a whisker away. "...violence is a winner." "The flavour of moments / tasting the solitude..." Savour in sips, the words from his lips...*

File number 81

Dear Heart

Selectivity skims the surface of reality
like a razor sliding over glass
avoiding platitudes and TV quiz shows
cliches and political speeches
sermons and protestations of true love
blackjack and roulette wheels
myths, miracles and biblical prophecy.

Savages

The brutality of boxers
or cage fighters
delights the spectators
who love blood
applaud the conquerors
and sympathise
with the humble losers
not to weakness
so violence is a winner.

Muses

The flavour of moments
tasting the solitude
left behind in the twilight
like a vintage wine
to forever sip and savour.

THE POET SPEAKS: *I began writing short stories - but switched to writing free verse poetry - which I immediately loved. That was before my first collection was published in January 2015. I told myself I was inspired by T S Eliot - but no poet really inspired me. In fact I preferred to read prose - to reading poetry. I wanted to use words to express my feelings in the best possible way - and that has always been my aim. I love to write - in particular - essays as well as poetry - but writing a satisfying poem is much more difficult. My main theme has been socio/political. I became fascinated with the history of US politics since WW2 - and have written extensively about it - in poetry and prose. I began writing late in my life - after a career as a teacher. I wrote a lot of short stories - most of which was rubbish - but I did learn how to write - by trial and error. I have had a relatively short - but arduous - apprenticeship as a poet. When I began I imagined I was writing great stuff - but of course I wasn't. I was on a long learning curve - and I'm still learning. I also love good literature. I was brought up on the novels of Dashiell Hammett - Raymond Chandler and Ross McDonald. I could keep on - but I'd probably bore you to death.*

AUTHOR'S BIO: An Australian poet and essayist - educated at Scotch College (Melbourne) and Swinburne Art School - taught art - began writing short stories - switched to writing free verse poetry and essays - with a poetry collection - Patterns of Perception - published by Augur Press (UK) in January 2015. 43 Allamanaa Blvd - Lysterfield - Victoria - Australia - 3156.