



BOOK : THE PICTURE FROM HERE

AUTHOR : TOM KELLY

PUBLISHERS : SAND CHAPBOOKS

COST : £ 4.00 (36 pages, stapled)

REVIEWER : Idris Caffrey

Tom Kelly is an experienced poet and has had a number of poems published over the years in magazines such as Borderlines, The Frogmore Papers, Sand and The Yellow Crane, to name just a few.

I read the collection a number of times finding a little more in each poem with subsequent readings. His poems are accesable, he is not the type of poet who uses “poetic language” for the sake of it just to impress his audience and this gives him his own distinct voice.

The poems are often short and to the point and often have an element of surprise which I liked. “*A Child`s Christmas*” is a very moving poem which shows the reality of Christmas in a home deprived of the things many of us take for granted –

*“Morning will be difficult :
no wallpaper, no headboard, claw marks,
filth locked under beds,
rooms gripped with stale air.”*

There is an honesty about his poems, sometimes a sense of near despair, a hard edge to many of them but where there`s poetry there is hope and I was pleased to see in the poem “*Street*” that he ends with the line –

“Tomorrow will be better.”

I think this book will go down well with many readers. I enjoyed reading the collection and it is good value for money.