

Holland Park Press



Press Release



A Sense of Tiptoe

and other articles of faith

poems by Karen Hayes

Published on 12 November 2020

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£8.00, \$16.00

Iconic churches, atmospheric locations, local legends, paintings, religious artifacts and more inspired Karen Hayes to write this collection. She often takes a mundane situation and lifts it into something more spiritual. A visit to a museum is compared to a modern-day pilgrimage, and she reflects how we struggle with our doubts, fears, superstition, disease, dead and loss.

Yet far from being gloomy, there is always hope and her poems give you a warm feeling about life. The poems, therefore, not only reflect on the religious aspects of faith but also deal with faith, or lack thereof, in ourselves and our surroundings.

One portion spare,
One chair, one prayer however poor,
Kept in reserve for any traveller
Who walks the Emmaus road
And is hungry at our door.

Karen Hayes's poems are perceptive and lyrical, and leave plenty room for our own interpretation.

Karen Hayes

Karen Hayes first full collection, *The Houses Along the Wall* – a Pembrokeshire poetry cycle, was published by Holland Park Press in 2018.

Karen spent the early part of her working life as an actor and musician and later artistic director of the Bristol-based theatre collective Public Parts.

From theatre she moved towards lyric and libretto writing and poetry and found herself creating verbatim texts with marginalised groups, most particularly with people living with dementia



I Had an Angel, written with composer John O'Hara, was produced live and also as an opera film for WNO. *The Bargee's Wife*, also written with John O'Hara, was produced as a community Opera for the 3 Choirs Festival as was their song cycle *I Can Hear You Waiting*.

She created a libretto for an Oratorio with composer Thomas Johnson *The Street of Bugles* which was performed at the 3 Choirs Festival.

She was Charles Causley poet-in-residence at Cypress Well in 2016. In 2017, her poem *The Belgians* won the Foreign Voices competition.

Notes for editors

Holland Park Press is a privately-owned publisher of literary fiction and poetry. It specializes in contemporary English fiction & poetry, translations of Dutch classics and modern Dutch fiction & poetry in English and Dutch.

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