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WORLD ENGLISH

CONTRAFLOW

LINES OF ENGLISHNESS 1922–2022

AN ANTHOLOGY SELECTED BY
JOHN GREENING AND KEVIN GARDNER

FOREWORD BY IAN McMILLAN

- An anthology of some of the best-loved classic and contemporary English poets.
- A finely balanced collection of work that questions the meaning of Englishness across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.
- A *Guardian* and *Sunday Times* poetry book of the year.
- Includes a foreword by the poet, journalist and broadcaster Ian McMillan.

Poets have grappled with the vexed question of what constitutes Englishness since time immemorial, and the poetry of the past century has seen perhaps some of the biggest evolutions in national identity.

Contraflow takes a completely new approach to the subject of Englishness, and in this stimulating and entertaining anthology two poetic currents flow against each other, so that different decades merge, well-known stanzas brushing shoulders with more neglected verse.

What emerges is an extraordinary mosaic of poetic responses to English history, culture and landscape – satirical, visionary, lyrical, comic, political, meditative – yet one which offers a recognisable picture of a land both united and divided through a hundred years.

ABOUT THE EDITORS:

John Greening is the author of over twenty collections of poetry, most recently *The Interpretation of Owls: Selected Poems 1977–2022*. His essays on poetry are collected in *Vapour Trails* and *A High Calling*. He has taught in Upper Egypt, Scotland and New Jersey, and has lived for many years with his family in Cambridgeshire. Kevin Gardner is a critic, editor and Professor of English at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He has published numerous essays on poets, from John Dryden to the present, has edited several volumes of the works of John Betjeman, and has worked on anthologies of church elegies (*Building Jerusalem*), country-house poems (*Hollow Palaces*, with John Greening), and Norfolk poetry (*Before the Dreadful Daylight Starts*, with Cameron Self).



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