



RENARD PRESS

PRESS RELEASE

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RENARD PRESS ACQUIRES WITTY SHORT-STORY COLLECTION FOR OUR AGE FOR ITS HAY PRESS IMPRINT, STUPID STORIES FOR TOUGH TIMES BY ANDREW CROWTHER

- A light-hearted and witty tonic for our times.
- Rich in observational wit in the spirit of classic English humour.
- Follows the success of the writer's humorous dystopian novella.
- Thematically broad and hits on important contemporary topics and preoccupations such as the environment as well as politics and familial strife.

Renard Press is delighted to announce that it has acquired World English rights to Andrew Crowther's short-story collection, *Stupid Stories for Tough Times*, for its Hay Press imprint. Rich in observational wit in the spirit of classic English humour, this light-hearted and witty collection follows the success of the writer's humorous dystopian novella *Down to Earth*.

Synopsis

In *Stupid Stories for Tough Times* a woodland spirit causes havoc in suburbia; a wayward uncle causes suspicion in the family; a ferocious troll seeks a friend; and Churchill's statue goes walkabout in Westminster.

In much the same vein as the short stories of W.S. Gilbert, whose oeuvre Crowther knows more about than perhaps anyone else, these tales of life and death are filled with the impossible and the improbable, the ordinary and the absurd. Together these so-called *Stupid Stories for Tough Times* are a tonic for our times – a search for sense in the strange and baffling times we live in, shot through, as all good stories should be, with humour and observational wit, with purpose, fate and dogs.

'Brilliant deadpan dystopia'

Mike Leigh

(on *Down to Earth*)



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Andrew Crowther is not only the Secretary of the W.S. Gilbert Society, author of the major biography *Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan*, and the undisputed authority on the life and works of W.S. Gilbert, but is also himself a writer, author of the short novel *Down to Earth* and a variety of comic plays including *Welcome to Paradise*, *Funny Men* and *Working Lives*. His works seem to share with Gilbert's a heartfelt belief in the complete nonsensicality of the universe.

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