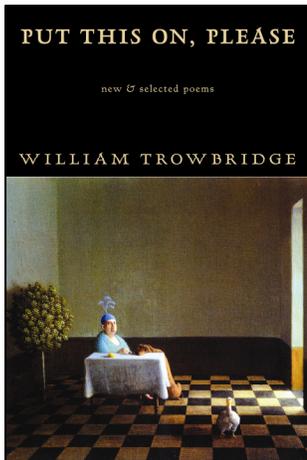




News from

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*Put This On, Please*  
New and Selected Poems  
William Trowbridge  
ISBN 978-1-59709-966-0  
Binding: Tradepaper  
Size: 6 x 9; Pages: 208  
Price: US \$19.95  
Pub Date: March 15, 2014



William Trowbridge



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# *Put This On, Please*

NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

William Trowbridge

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The sixth collection of poetry by seriocomic master William Trowbridge, “one of America’s best and wittiest poets” (Charles Harper Webb).

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William Trowbridge’s *Put This On, Please: New and Selected Poems* contains work from all five of his full collections, as well as a group of new poems. In lines that capture the rhythms of everyday speech (with the ghost of meter haunting closely along), Trowbridge follows misfits and outcasts whose ramblings and shamblings reflect our own well-meaning gropes for fulfillment. These reader-friendly poems draw often from classic films and other elements of popular culture—from Buster Keaton to Chuck Berry, from King Kong to Wile E. Coyote. Trowbridge is not squeamish about exploring the darker side of humanity, as seen in poems about the Kiss of Death delivered by Michael Corleone in *The Godfather II* or about Nebraska mass murderer Charles Starkweather. Capping off the book, a group of new poems takes a fresh look at old themes, sounding deepened notes of both melancholy and celebration. Throughout this seriocomic account of human foibles, vices, and wonders, Trowbridge makes a strong case for laughter as the only appropriate response to our post-post-modern condition.

## **Praise for *Put This On, Please***

“Plunging head first into the colorful waters of popular culture, William Trowbridge manages to find there are ways to reiterate some of the basic stuff of lyric poetry. His gathered poems combine pointed social criticism with just plain verbal fun.”

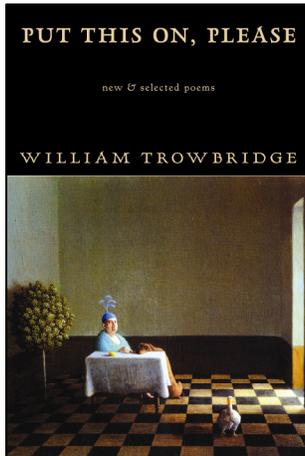
—Billy Collins

“To call William Trowbridge a plain-spoken poet is accurate and one of his great virtues: he is unafraid of being understood. He is also a master of metaphor and, one never doubts the honesty of his poems, his voice. His poems speak, oh they speak! What he does is very hard to do and he does it brilliantly.”

—Thomas Lux

## **Biographical Note**

**William Trowbridge** is the Poet Laureate of Missouri. He is the author of five poetry collections, including *Ship of Fool* (Red Hen Press, 2011). He lives in the Kansas City area.



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## More Praise for *Put This On, Please*

“William Trowbridge’s has been a life lived in poetry. It seems to emanate from him like a pine scent from the forest. And how wonderful to have these poems all together, to experience the range of subjects—from the Frog Prince to old movies to boogie-boarding in the California surf. The breadth of tone and style is equally impressive, as the wry meets the elegiac or the subtleties of rhyme and meter salute the adventurous *vers libre*. Here’s a book to relish and return to.”

—Nance Van Winckel

## From *Put This On, Please*

### THE KISS

*V-J Day, Times Square, 1945*

Famous and faceless as those who raised  
the flag on Suribachi, they lean forever  
in black and white: the randy gob, fresh  
from sailing back alive, who's just found  
something better to kiss than pavement,  
and the nurse whose sheer-white-stockinged legs  
show trim as any pin-up girl's.  
Bent backward and off balance in his arms,  
she catches what he's found the nerve to pitch,  
her right knee bending slightly  
from his boyish ardor. Passers-by await  
the finish, poised to applaud or cheer,  
but the two go on and on, picked up by *Life*  
to show us what we fight for. Are they lovers?  
Strangers? Is the whole thing being posed  
for the Sunday supplement?

We cannot know.

The show ends here, as did our latest dance  
to death's slick croon, with the kind of kiss  
that Bogart planted on Bacall. The rest,  
as we're sometimes told, belongs to history,  
off camera, clearing its rheumy throat.