

Entertaining and Enlightening by DM Denton

A Review of 'Veritas', a poetry anthology by Ina Schroder Zeeders

Ina's poetry offers a generous share in her life on an island, not in isolation but sublime and sensible awareness of the world around her. It's like being invited to tea with her observations and explorations, enjoyments and frustrations, pathos and humor, a little fantasy here and there, and sensuality that is both honest and enigmatic. She's a storyteller, traveler, tease, naturalist, and romantic; prolific but also precise in this collection about the everyday and unusual, love, the sea, and death. The poems are as varied in form and subject as they are consistently entertaining and enlightening.

Her writing feels spontaneous but also very conscious of what it is about and wants to express, a clarity all the more remarkable as English is not her native tongue. Perhaps that is why there is a freshness to it. Some of her most powerful and lyrical images reflect her past and present connection to the sea, as if she is most comfortable revealing herself through its moods and creatures, work and play—enticed by its waves and journeys and horizons but also simple strolls along its shores.

Ina offers poetry as an ally, not something to suffer through but a friend to rely on, like the 'Lighthouse' that...

'...shines its light in endless beams
to safety from the tempest sea
and when a storm
torments the shore or a mist comes up
it is your guide
for needed shelter.'

'Veritas', though specific to Ina's exterior and interior perceptions and experiences, has much to say and sing to the hearts and minds, tears and smiles of others. I thoroughly recommend it, for reading through once and twice and more, and certainly for keeping nearby for opening to any page any time.