Gilgamesh By David Ferry

StrangersDavid Ferry - Company PortraitsOn this Side of the RiverSelectedThe Odes of HoraceDavid FerryDavid FerrySome Things I SaidParis Review Poetry ShowcaseGilgameshThe Oilfield YearsThe Georgics of Virgil (Bilingual Edition)The Eclogues of VirgilPainting Without a BrushThe Situation of PoetryFor The Love of A DeerThe Limits of MortalityOn the Way to the IslandIn the Reading RoomFables of the Self David Ferry Toronto Workshop Productions Archives (University of Guelph) David Ferry William Wordsworth Horace Bernard Sharratt David Ferry David Ferry David Ferry Robert Pinsky David Ferry David Ferry David Ferry Rosanna Warren

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david ferry must have had something up his sleeve when he called his book strangers because his is a poetry of intimacy and familiarity more than that mr ferry s short sparse lyrics are as perfectly and simply composed as japanese haiku a rare accomplishment in poetry written in english andy brumer new york times book review strangers is a remarkably good book for a reader sufficiently attentive to hear its quiet power to let it work in its distinctive way boston globe the poems of david ferry s strangers are in fact one book and it is a splendid one there is the same austere and poignant voice throughout asking the unanswerable things speaking of all that is withheld from us confronting the unknownness that dwells even in the familiar and dear painful and touching the book offers a distinctive vision which is at the same time inescapably true richard wilbur

david ferry is one of the most eminent poets writing in the us today in on this side of the river ferry presents a large sampling of his work both as an original poet and as a translator

a new bilingual translation of the works of a roman poet with latin and english

versions on facing pages in discipline one reads sweet and proper it is to die for your country but death would just as soon come after him who runs away

a book of poems by david ferry

there have been other english accounts of this hero with a thousand descendants but this is the first one that is as much poetry as scholarship michael dirda the washington post book world a national book critics circle award finalist this is a new verse rendering of the great epic of ancient mesopotamia one of the oldest works in western literature ferry makes gilgamesh available in the kind of energetic and readable translation that robert fitzgerald and richard lattimore have provided for readers in their translations of homer and virgil and brings a fresh interpretation to its power john ray the times literary supplement captures the elegiac and ironic undertones of gilgamesh s failed search for immortality one senses that ferry has restored the poetry of this oldest epic publishers weekly like edward fitzgerald s rubaiyat or ezra pound s cathay mr ferry s gilgamesh is a miraculous transformation of the original into his own utterly distinctive idiom ferry s technical genius and literary sophistication evoke not only the hero s anguish but the rage and despair of the untouchable tom sleigh the new york times book review

the oilfield years is part two of an autobiography though well seasoned a young man is forced into the oilfield at age fifteen in the late 1960 s the oilfield was a wild and hard world it contained mostly good decent hard working people accidents were a common staple of the oilfield in the early years and there was simply put no stability to make a living in the oilfield one had to travel and change jobs a lot you worked with a diversity of people cajuns arabs hondurans indonesians and many other nationalities make up the oilfields something comical occurred often and roughnecks in general created mishaps the oilfield years deals with work fights accidents blunders and my view of that world for over twenty five years i hope you enjoy the book as much as i enjoyed the people

john dryden called virgil s georgics written between 37 and 30 b c e the best poem by the best poet the poem newly translated by the poet and translator david ferry is one of the great songs maybe the greatest we have of human accomplishment in difficult and beautiful circumstances and in the context of all we share in nature the georgics celebrates the crops trees and animals and above all the human beings who care for them it takes the form of teaching about this care the tilling of fields the tending of vines the raising of the cattle and the bees there s joy in the detail of virgil s descriptions of work well done and ecstatic joy in his praise of the very life of things and passionate commiseration too because of the vulnerability of men and all other creatures with all they have to contend with storms and plagues

and wars and all mischance

fresh minted and sparkling ferry s translation wonderfully preserves the exquisite harmonies of the mode while giving it a vigorous edge of reality robert taylor the boston globe virgil's great lyrics rendered by the acclaimed translator of gilgamesh the ecloques of virgil gave definitive form to the pastoral mode and these magically beautiful poems which were influential in so much subsequent literature perhaps best exemplify what pastoral can do song replying to song replying to song touchingly comic poignantly sad sublimely joyful the various music that these shepherds make echoes in scenes of repose and harmony and of hardship and trouble in work and love available in ebook for the first time this english only edition of the ecloques of virgil includes concise informative notes and an introduction that describes the fundamental role of this deeply original book in the pastoral tradition direct unmannered and fresh a modern version of classical simplicity merle rubin los angeles times mr ferry is a gifted poet and much admired translator those to whom the original is a sealed book will enjoy much of its charm through the medium of the author's accomplished translation while those who like shakespeare have small latin can experience the additional pleasure of savoring with mr ferry s help the musical perfection of virgil s lines bernard knox the washington times ferry has achieved a high degree of fidelity to what virgil wrote simple luminous clarity richard jenkyns the new republic

in this book robert pinsky writes about contemporary poetry as it reflects its modernist and romantic past he isolates certain persistent ideas about poetry s situation relative to life and focuses on the conflict the poet faces between the nature of words and poetic forms on one side and the nature of experience on the other the author ranges for his often surprising examples from keats to the great modernists such as stevens and williams to the contents of recent magazines he considers work by ammons ashbery bogan ginsberg lowell merwin o hara and younger writers offering judgments and enthusiasms from a viewpoint that is consistent but unstereotyped like his poetry robert pinsky s criticism joins the traditional and the innovative in ways that are thoughtful and unmistakably his own his book is a bold essay on the contemporary situation in poetry on the dazzling achievements of modernism and on the nature or situation of poetry itself

fables of the self traces ideas of imagined selfhood through the lyric poetry of classical greece and rome the modernist poetry of france and modern and contemporary english and american lyrics rosanna warren s work emerges from the tradition of british and american poet critics such as william empson donald davie and randall jarrell her readings of sappho virgil baudelaire melville rimbaud mark strand and louise glück among others combine helen vendler s passionate attention to detail and something of harold bloom s panoramic view warren

opposes both the literalizing autobiographical approach to self in so called confessional poetry and the other extreme of avant garde erasures of self framing her critical studies between a memoir of childhood and a concluding journal entry warren has composed an occult autobiography showing the imagination as a transfiguring and potentially moral force

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