ELEGY FOR EVERYONE Poems by Alfred Nicol

PROSPERO'S PRESS INC.

Elegy for Everyone Poems by Alfred Nicol

PROSPERO'S WORLD PRESS, INC Flushing, New York

## Elegy for Everyone

Poems by Alfred Nicol

Prospero's World Press, Inc. Flushing, New York

## Acknowledegements

Copyright © 2009 by Prospero's World Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

The rights to the poems in this book are retained by the author. This book may not be reproduced in whole or in part, in any form except by reviewers for the public press, without written permission of the publisher.

Designed by Michele Fairley Printed in the United States by Country Press, Lima, Pennsylvania

ISBN 978-0-9822028-1-4

Prospero's World Press, Inc. Flushing, New York My thanks to the following publications, where several of the poems in this manuscript first appeared.

Compass Rose: "Your Father's Place" Chronicles: "Empty Streets" Cimarron Review: "Aunt Mae" The Dark Horse: "Elegy for Everyone" Edge City Review: "Closet," and "The Difference" The Formalist: "Hard Winter," "The Song of Miss Lily," and "Your Other Men" lambs & Trochees: "Poem to Read at an Open Mic," and "To Live Within His Means" Light: "Persnickety Ichabod's Rhyming Diary " and "Persnickety Ichabod's Melancholy Descant on the Crow" The Lyric: "I Go Near Love" Lucid Rhythms: "Actaeon, After" Measure: "The Mistress to Herself" and "Open-and-shut" Not Just Air: "Fairy Tale Workshop" Oberon: "End of the Season," "The Great White Hall," "Lullaby for a Scholar," and "Reunion" Pivot: "Daily Practice" Poetry: "Bat" and "Old Haunt" The Raintown Review: "At Least One Day," "Mother's Side" and "Mr. LeVieux Locks Up" Schuylkill Valley Journal of the Arts: "At the City Cemetery," "The Gift," and "A Wage Earner's Lament" Texas Poetry Journal website: "Breakfast Royale"

Thanks again to Rhina Espaillat and the Powow River Poets, who read and responded to early drafts of many of these poems. I should make special mention of Richard Wollman, whose insightful reading helped to shape the title poem, as did the editing of Gerry Cambridge.

## Preface

When Alfred Nicol titled his collection of poems *Elegy for Everyone*, he suggested the reflective tone and thematic substance of his compilation. Its range of ideas and moods is staggering. In poem after poem the author provides a feast for the mind. The manuscript runs to seventy pages, not one of which is dull or trivial. Nicol has created a work of complex vision and stylistic mastery. If one reads his book with the empathy and imagination it deserves, one is unlikely to forget its inhabitants who are often shadows of ourselves.

Dr. Alfred Dorn

Alfred Dorn, poet and critic, founder of the Anita Dorn Memorial Award for Poetry, received his doctorate from New York University, where he studied as a Penfield Fellow for work in Renaissance and modern literature. A specialist in authors of the 16th and 17th centuries, he wrote graduate dissertations on Christopher Marlowe, Edmund Spenser, and John Donne. He taught at New York University, Rider College, and the City University of New York. Dr. Dorn directed writing workshops for the Poetry Society of America, The Brooklyn Poetry Circle, and literary organizations in Texas, Arkansas, and Indiana. He has been featured on New York radio. Twice vice president of the Poetry Society of America, Dr. Dorn is director of the World Order of Narrative and Formalist Poets, which has sponsored poetry competitions since 1980.

Dr. Dorn's work has appeared in poetry anthologies and some sixty periodicals, among them *Blue Unicorn*, *Dark Horse*, *The Edge City Review*, *The Formalist*, *Hellas*, *The Hudson Review*, *Iambs & Trochees*, *Light*, *The Lyric*, *The New Criterion*, *Orbis*, *Pivot*, and *Sparrow*. As literary critic and art historian, he has published essays in *Iambs & Trochees*, *Arts Magazine*, and other journals.

In recent years, he published three books of poetry: *From Cells to Mindspace, Voices from Rooms,* and *Claire and Christmas Village.* He started Prospero's World Press, Inc. in 2008 to publicize outstanding works of poetry, fiction, and essays. for my parents, Anita and Alfred Nicol

Table of Contents

Actaeon, After 1 At the City Cemetery 2 At Least One Day 3 Aunt Mae 4 Bat 6 Breakfast Royale 9 Closet 10 Dachshund 11 Daily Practice 12 A Deaf Ear 13 The Difference 14 Elegy for Everyone 15 Empty Streets 18 End of the Season 19 Fairy Tale Workshop 20 The Gift 21 God Damn the Rain 22 The Great White Hall 23 Hard Winter 24 I Go Near Love 25 Landscape with Odd Man Out 26 Lullaby for a Scholar 27 The Mistress to Herself 29 Mother's Side 30 Mr. LeVieux Locks Up 36 Old Haunt 37 On Translation 38 Open-and-shut 39 Persnickety Ichabod's Rhyming Diary 40 Persnickety Ichabod's Difference with Aristotle 54 55 Persnickety Ichabod is Prompted to Sing Persnickety Ichabod's Melancholy Descant on the Crow 56

Persnickety Ichabod's Vacation Plan 57 Poem to Read at an Open Mic 58 Reunion 60 The Song of Miss Lily 61 The Stone Money of Yap 62 Tidying Up 63 To Live Within His Means 64 A Wage-Earner's Lament 65 What to Call It 66 Your Father's Place 68 Your Other Men 70