

CHANGING PLACES by Carl Tomlinson

A poetry pamphlet

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*Those riches now are gathered here
by will and trust and deed
in the fields that I tread every day
to check the sheep,
or to see what's new
among the trees which frame the view
I sometimes think I own.*

(extract from *They moved our sky*)

With serendipitous timing, Fair Acre Press is publishing *Changing Places* just as we all begin to think about moving a little further afield. From the Lancashire soil of his grandfather's farm, via the heathland of the New Forest, to the spires of Salisbury and Oxford, Carl Tomlinson brings us stories of work and play, love and loss, growth and grief. These poems show us that the places we cherish, protest to maintain, and summon in pathetic fallacy are far more than a pastoral idyll. Most of what we glimpse through the car window, or fell-top vantage point, or weekly dose of Countryfile is there on sufferance, and in the service of our bellies rather than our souls.

Changing Places gifts us a host of compelling characters – both people and places – and bids us listen to what they really have to say, not just what we want to hear..

Helen Mort

Most poets dance around loss, desolation, and the presence of the past. [Tomlinson] doesn't Changing Places is the real thing in a bookshop full of fakes.

Professor Charles Foster

The lie of Carl Tomlinson's personal land and heritage makes for moving reading – love runs through and between the lines, love for what has been and what now remains.

Di Slaney



Carl Tomlinson was born in Lancashire – where his father’s family had farmed for 150 years – and moved to Wiltshire as a child. He attended Bishop Wordsworth’s School in Salisbury before reading Spanish and French at St Catherine’s College, Oxford. By his 21st birthday he had buried half his

immediate family.

After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, Carl spent most of his career as a director of a metal-finishing business. He has an MA in Coaching and Mentoring at Oxford Brookes University. He is now a coach and part-time finance director.

Carl and his wife Kate live with their dog on a smallholding in Oxfordshire. He regularly reads at open-mic events, and has co-hosted a weekly Zoom event since April 2020, uniting creatives and audiences across 3 continents. His work has appeared in magazines, anthologies and online. His poem *Market Forces* won Oxford City Council’s competition to celebrate the Covered Market and can be seen here <https://tinyurl.com/2xja63sn>.

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