

David Harsent

Writer

David Harsent is a critically acclaimed poet, novelist and librettist. Under the pseudonyms David Lawrence, David Pascoe and Jack Curtis he has published thrillers that have been translated into fifteen languages, and has worked extensively for the BBC and ITV (see [David Lawrence](#)). His most recent collection of poems, FIRE SONGS, won the 2015 T.S. Elliot Poetry Prize.



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Publications

Poetry

**Publication
Details**

Notes

**A BROKEN MAN
IN FLOWER**

2023

Bloodaxe Books

Yannis Ritsos (1909–90) is generally considered to be – along with Cavafy, Seferis and Elytis – one of the most significant Greek poets of the last century. His life was, to say the least, troubled. From an early age, he was dogged by the tuberculosis that killed his mother and brother. His father and sister suffered breakdowns and spent time in institutions.

His poem Epitaphios (1936), a lament for a young man shot dead by the police during a tobacco workers' strike, was publicly burned by the Metaxas regime and his books banned. During the post-World War Two civil war – because he sided with the left – Ritsos was arrested and sent to prison camps. Then, in 1967, when the Papadopoulos military junta took control of the country, he was again arrested, again his books were banned, again he spent time in prison camps, before being confined to house arrest on the island of Samos. The violence and tyranny of dictatorship is often fractured by the surreal. In the poems collected here, written by Ritsos while in prison and under house arrest, that fracture in perception is a wound.

A Broken Man in Flower has an introduction by John Kittmer and includes the text of an illuminating and vivid letter sent by Ritsos to his publisher in 1969 while under house arrest on Samos describing his life – and the lives of Greeks – under the repressive rule of the Colonels.

David Harsent's thirteen collections have won a number of awards, including the Forward Prize, the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Griffin International Prize. He is also a librettist: his collaborations with composers, chiefly with Harrison Birtwistle, have been performed at major venues worldwide.

SALT

2017

Faber

Written as David Harsent.

FIRE SONGS

2014

Faber

*Winner of T.S. Eliot Poetry Prize (2015).

Written as David Harsent.

**IN SECRET -
VERSIONS OF
YANNIS RITSOS**

2012

Enitharmon

Written as David Harsent.

NIGHT

2011

Faber

Shortlisted for the Costa Book Prize (poetry), the T.S. Eliot Prize, and nominated for the Forward Proze 2011.

Written as David Harsent.

**SELECTED
POEMS 1969-
2005**

2007

Faber

In an illustrious career, David Harsent has published eight collections of poetry, from "A Violent County" in 1969 to "Legion", winner of the Forward Prize in 2005. This selection, made by the author himself, draws upon the full arc of his career and offers an outstanding concentration of, and introduction to, the full range and powers of this distinguished poet.

LEGION

2005

Faber

Forward Prize Winner 2005/6

Shortlisted for T.S. Eliot Prize

Shortlisted for Whitbread Award

Written as David Harsent.

MARRIAGE 2002 Faber	Shortlisted for T.S. Eliot Prize. Shortlisted for the Forward Prize. Written as David Harsent.
A BIRD'S IDEA OF FLIGHT 1998 Faber	Shortlisted for the Forward Prize Written as David Harsent.
SPRINTING FROM THE GRAVEYARD 1997 OUP	Translation from original by Goran Simic. Written as David Harsent.
THE SORROW OF SARAJEVO 1996 Refer to United Agents	Translation from originals by Goran Simic. Written as David Harsent.
NEWS FROM THE FRONT 1993 OUP	Written as David Harsent.
SELECTED POEMS 1989 OUP	Written as David Harsent.
MISTER PUNCH 1984 OUP	Written as David Harsent.
DREAMS OF THE DEAD 1977 OUP	Geoffry Faber Memorial Award Winner Arts Council Bursary Written as David Harsent.
AFTER DARK 1973 OUP	Written as David Harsent.
TRUCE 1973 Refer to United Agents	Written as David Harsent.
A VIOLENT COUNTRY 1968 OUP	Arts Council Bursary Written as David Harsent.

Fiction

Publication Details	Notes
DOWN INTO DARKNESS 2007 Michael Joseph	Written as David Lawrence. The naked body of a young woman is found hanging from a tree on a London roadside. Scrawled across her back, the words 'DIRTY GIRL'. Detective Sergeant Stella Mooney and the AMIP 5 squad are faced with a murder as baffling as it is chilling. With no means to identify the victim and no apparent motive, the case is blocked, until...A man is found on a bench by the river, his throat cut back to the vertebrae. And, as before, the killer has left a trademark comment: 'FILTHY COWARD'. Stella and her team can see there's a connection: but what? One victim is a young girl - maybe one of the hookers who work the Strip; the other a researcher for a prominent and controversial MP. More evidence is needed. And soon enough, it comes; another death, another message...
COLD KILL 2005 Michael Joseph	A Stella Mooney Crime Novel. Written as David Lawrence.
NOTHING LIKE THE NIGHT 2005 Michael Joseph	A Stella Mooney Crime Novel. Written as David Lawrence.
THE DEAD SIT AROUND IN A RING 2004 Michael Joseph	A Stella Mooney Crime Novel. Written as David Lawrence.
FOX ON THE RUN 1999 Orion	Written as David Pascoe.
THE CONFESSOR 1997 Orion	Written as Jack Curtis.
MIRRORS KILL 1996 Bantam	Written as Jack Curtis.
CONJURE ME 1992 Bantam	Written as Jack Curtis.

Publication Details	Notes
SONS OF THE MORNING 1992 Bantam	Written as Jack Curtis.
GLORY 1989 Bantam	Written as Jack Curtis.
CROWS' PARLIAMENT 1988 Bantam	Written as Jack Curtis.

Other

Publication Details	Notes
ANOTHER ROUND AT THE PILLARS: A FESTSCHRIFT FOR IAN HAMILTON (ed.) 1999 Refer to United Agents	Written as David Harsent.
Gawain 1991 Refer to United Agents	Libretto Written as David Harsent.
FROM AN INLAND SEA 1986 Viking	Novel Written as David Harsent.