

About *Ahem*

Martin Figura's poems are wry, playful, pointed and poignant, always engaging, unashamedly entertaining. They give as much pleasure on the page as they do in performance.

They're easy to get into and not so easy to get out of. You start reading and you keep reading. If there's someone in the room you'll want to read them one. They'll be reluctant at first then when you've finished they'll ask for another one. Next they'll ask for a look at the book, soon they'll be reading one to you. This is how it works.

Here is every day life with a tweak and a twist and what might be a blade or a dangerously sharp lollipop stick.

Matt Harvey

Martin Figura, always a witty and skilful writer, has considerably extended his range in his new poems. Now that which had a mordant edge in the comic work comes more into focus. All the work on concision and restraint has concentrated and brought extra power to a potentially important poet, and poignancy too. In effect the work has more dimensions, is more humane for its darkening, the entertainment cuts deeper.

George Szirtes

I like Martin Figura's work very much. He's talented and I wouldn't hesitate to appropriate some of his work and call it mine.

Randy Newman