



The Richard Poems

Simon Sweetman

To be released November 2024

ISBN 978-1-98-859589-4

RRP \$20 • 110 x 180MM • 76pp

Softcover. Poetry.

Selling points

- Wellington writer and podcaster, with radio profile
- Popular performance poet with Wellington following
- accessible poems about growing up in the 80s, friendships (good and bad) and music

She said, 'My *Richard*
was called Claire.'

And I said well, we all have them.



I wrote most of what you read here in a blur, in a few months, on my phone. I wrote these poems while walking around town, and on a trip to Auckland. I wrote these poems in Hawke's Bay too. I wrote these poems and heard the music that had inspired many of them in my head, did not need to play the songs, sometimes would not have wanted to. I wrote these poems because I could think of nothing else. Many of them had been living inside me for 20 and 30 years. Some of them arrived as if to punch me in the gut. Others wanted to hold my hand and help me on the walk. And some are still trying to work out if they're friend or foe. All I know is that I had to write these poems. It was time. *Simon Sweetman*

Simon Sweetman is a Whanganui-a-Tara writer, with pop-culture obsessions and an interest in broadcasting. His previous books were *On Song* and *The Death of Music Journalism*. *The Richard Poems* is his second collection of poetry. He is the host of *Sweetman Podcast*, and co-host of *We All Float Down Here – A Stephen King Podcast*. He shares his world with the love of his life, Katy, their son Oscar, and the family's two dog friends, Bowie and Kendrick.



Sales / distribution: Expensive Hobby
www.expensivehobby.org • hello@expensivehobby.org

www.thecubapress.nz • hello@thecubapress.nz • Box 9321, Wellington 6141