

Every shadow tells a story



CHAC-MOOL

a book of poems

Paul Schimmel

Fail better

Two attempts to scale Mount
Taranaki. Two failures just short
of the summit where ice
and snow scarf the mountain.
Closer the second time
but the wild wind sprays me
with fine grit from the scree slopes.
The mountain is moving, worn
away from under my feet.

With age such goals become
ever more elusive. I take
courage from Samuel Beckett:

No matter. Try again.

Fail again. Fail better.

This diverse and delightful collection of poems travels through New Zealand, Australian and Mexican noir — where beauty and moral ambiguity entwine, and every shadow tells a story. There are four poems in French and one in Spanish (with translations) and another section features poems with psychoanalytic themes.

Paul Schimmel is a retired psychoanalyst and writer. Born in New Zealand, he trained in psychoanalysis in Sydney, and now divides his year between Australia and Aotearoa. He has published two books on psychoanalysis and a fishing miscellany, *An 'Incompleat' Angler*. This is his second volume of poetry.

Praise for Paul's, *Reading the Water*:

... a quietly stunning achievement. These carefully crafted poems talk about our relationship to the natural world. They go beyond invention into discovery; on one hand paying scrupulous attention to what we can read in the landscapes of nature, and on the other going deeper into the often mysterious landscapes of the heart.

— Michael Harlow, *PM's award for poetry 2018*

Wherever he is, Paul Schimmel observes, giving his and our world careful attention. He seeks to understand nature's language, to divine what it says about both nature and ourselves, to shed light upon what we feel about what we find. He takes us to magical places.

— Brian Turner, *former Poet Laureate*

... a stunning, well-crafted book. A richly woven collection which capably showcases Schimmel's love of language, symbolism and poetic craft.

— Siobhan Harvey, *takahē magazine*

A5 • soft cover • 86 pages • ISBN 978-1-0670190-5-1 • RRP \$25



Steele Roberts Aotearoa Publishers • info@steeleroberts.co.nz

www.SteeleRoberts.co.nz • 299 Manly Street, Paraparaumu Beach 5032