The wave that leaves you damp

Review by Anthony Lawrence

Love poetry is hard to write and difficult to write well. Fortunately, it often requires the poet to go beyond an almost peripheral stance. Addressing poems directly in a love poem is fine if your stance is one of control of your language and haven't already made decisions about how subject matter will be defined. Too often, a love poem can fail under the weight of sentimentality and cliché. The words “heart”, “soul”, “love”, and countless others can be overworked in a bad love poem. When Inkerman & Blunt called for submission, the tomato was very ripe, and submissions opened on March 18. Over the next three months, the poems gathered momentum. Some of the best poems were included in Love Poems 2013. Many others were rejected for not meeting the standards set by the editors. This is the wave of poetry that leaves you damp.

From flu to wanderlust

You can't fault them, then, for breadth of focus. Eidelman and Boardman handle their varied subject matter deftly. The Novel Cure remains serious without taking itself too seriously, giving voice to people who believe in the power of literature as a therapeutic medium. They show an enjoyable breadth of reading, so much so that, in a single volume, 6000 years of literature make the book as good as gold. You can turn to a page of any interest and find it as a guide to finding a cure for “Stiff upper lip, having or "vegetarianism". A new caution, however, if reading The Novel Cure on public transport: it will make you laugh. Very loudly.