

# IDYLLS OF THE NYMPHAI: FROM A MANTIC CORACLE

BY AUTHOR HARRY MATTHEWS

*Idylls of the Nymphai from a Mantic Coracle* is Harry Matthews' seventh poetry collection. In it, the author takes us on a journey with the Nymphs from the vantage point of a mantic coracle.



## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Idylls of the Nymphai from a Mantic Coracle* is the 7th poetry collection by Harry Matthews. The poems concerning the Nymphai, the author informs us, were inspired by a peculiarly mantic coracle on the River Severn, in Shropshire, England- an eminent past-time, whose legendary hospitality and insights the author has frequently enjoyed.

The book is a collection of 45 short and interesting poems with rhyme scheme, irregularly grouped, each with a unique taste to offer. Each poem will resonate deeply with its imagery of sunsets, rivers, and the unbearable absence of the Beloved. The book is so well written that the readers can connect on many levels.

It's the seventh poetry book by the author so you can expect the book to be one of the best, with his experience in the art of poetry. When you pick up the book you won't be able to put it down without finishing. The poems are smooth and easy to read. It's a literary masterpiece by the author who says: "Theocritus called his pastoral poems "idylls" ('short poems'), particularly on a rustic theme. The Nymphai (Nymphs) were female spirits of the natural world- of the forests, rivers, springs, meadows, mountains, and seas. They say a load of a man is his coracle...a symbol for a spiritual journey, but also wholeness and completion; the surrender of one's life to God." The author brings forth verses narrating the lives of mythological characters with a witty, contemporary twist. These verses are beautifully written and make you experience feelings of tranquility and laughter.

**Get your copy of 'Idylls of the Nymphai' today.**

**Connect with Author Harry Matthews socially**

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## THE AUTHOR

Author Harry Matthews has established his place as a young English poet with an emerging international reputation, combining poetic creativity with artistic flair. His poems carry the vital forces of England, even if as a poet he writes in the Shropshire countryside, detached from literary

London. His poetry contains every fruitful, every liberating thought imaginable. The initiated acknowledge his work to be a fascinating mixture of adventure, autobiography, philosophy, and Greek mythology. He has a chameleon-like ability to write poems in almost every verse form with stylistic and technical achievement: from Ghazals to Italian Quatrains to English Odes. His travels in India and Europe have influenced his work.

After a long apprenticeship, by his focus shifted to writing poetry for publication. In 2020, his first book, 'Sonarification', was written in within the month of June. His second book 'Twynd' was written in July; 'Hyperion' in August; 'Woodwose' in September; 'The Lost Shadow of Things' in October; 'True to the God in You' in November.

A travel book 'A Whimsical Journey Through India', appeared in June, 2021, which re-imagines his youthful meanderings around India as an easy-going modern-day explorer, in an intimate and entertaining travelogue. By November, 2021, he published the seventh collection of poems, 'Idylls of the Nymphai from a Mantic Coracle'. His books are published by Harry Art Publishing, and also available through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Foyles, Walmart, etc. ISBN: 9781800681620.

## THE INTERVIEW

WITH AUTHOR HARRY MATTHEWS

**Q: What was your first thought when you started writing and when?**

I wrote my first book in June 2020. It was simply to fill in the time. So, I suppose the answer was to cure boredom. I needed some activity to keep my mind off things. I wrote my latest book in July this year...My thought: I'm going to write this book about Nymphs; a dreamy pastoral collection, inspired by Shropshire.

**Q: What literary pilgrimages have you gone on?**

I have been to Hereford on several literary pilgrimages with the Thomas Traherne Association, both at Hereford Cathedral and St Mary's Credenhill, also the Church in Teddington where he is buried. I could also mention Lawrence's Clouds Hill in Dorset. I once happened to be in India, at Rohet Gahr near Jodhpur, where Bruce Chatwin wrote a draft of 'The Songlines'.

**Q: What is the most unethical practice in the publishing industry?**

Predatory publishers.

**Q: Does writing energize or exhaust you?**

I find painting energizes me with an uplift. I do my own artwork for my books, and I find that really helps to sell the book and make it more interesting. If I write poetry, I feel inspired, and determined, but without sufficient rest after finishing the book, I am exhausted.

**Q: What are common traps for aspiring writers?**

Cliché and an inability to accept criticism are pitfalls. It is always good to read as a writer and write with a reader in mind. I learned a lot from my masters in writing, but I don't think they can teach how to write. One must read writers to write. I think focus and perseverance conquers most of the snares.

**Q: Does a big ego help or hurt writers?**

I think a writer needs an ego to survive in an ego driven world, but less of the writer in the writing, the stronger the writing seems to be, especially in English Literature.

**Q: What is your writing Kryptonite?**

Well I'm hardly a Superman, but I think that my Achilles heel is over-exerting myself; this always lands me in trouble and burnout is something I have to guard against or rest through! I think the cure is sometimes the poison and vice versa. Ginseng for instance, gives me focus, but it makes me garrulous and excitable.

**Q: Have you ever gotten a reader's block?**

Yes, quite a few times. I am hyperactive, but when I do focus, I have a depth of concentration that surprises me. There are a few books I should read, but I probably won't, but that's fine, I read when I can, and have several on the go at once that interest me.

**Q: Did you ever consider writing under a pseudonym?**

Not seriously I considered a pseudonym: 'Perceval de Lillard'. My artist *nom du guerre* for a time was 'Hazman' but for writing I feel okay with my birth name.

**Q: Could someone be a writer if they don't feel emotions strongly?**

They could write, but I doubt it would have much impact. What interests me is that I learned language first from my mother by means of 'poetic devices'. If you can imagine it, and really feel it, and thereby describe it, then the reader will believe it and feel it too, and perhaps always remember it?

**Q: What's the best way to market your books?**

Having a book is like having a website. It can be brilliant, so it better be presented to the right people, so it can take off.

**Q: How did publishing your first book change your process of writing?**

Not much, except I now take longer to write. With the first book I drafted a poem or two a day every day for a month. I went straight to drafting, all the thinking and gathering in my memory; ideas reaching maturity after brewing for years. Draft, revise, edit. The *Idylls* took 4 months- I had doctoral research in tandem.

**Q: How many unpublished and half-finished books do you have?**

I have boxes full of them! I plan to get round to publishing a few more. The Amsterdam story has been with me since I was 22. It will probably be a massive tome. Then there is the ocean fantasy I've conceived as a trilogy. Then there are many more poetry collections simmering nicely...

**Q: What kind of research do you do, and how long do you spend researching before beginning a book?**

I find I do plenty of research for my poetry collections in the academic library, especially around the theme that emerges. The *Idylls* required Classical research, and the bucolic poets such as Theocritus and Virgil who inspired me. I did research on coracles still used on the River Severn in Shropshire today. Being in a coracle is research.

**Q: How do you feel about your book being featured in DE MODE?**

It's truly lovely. Writing each of my poetry books is hard work- I'm never sure it will reach the audience I hope for it. Being listed by DE MODE is a great feeling for me, because it means my collections of poems made it wider across the world and raised a laugh - which is really all I'm trying to do.