

# A PATIO OF POEMS FOR GROWN-UPS BY FRANCINE L. TREVENS

*Reviewed by Millicent Brower*

Francine L. Trevens is a consummate poet. She began writing poetry at age six, when she penned:

“EASTER

Easter is a merry day  
All the children like to play  
Children laugh, children sing  
Easter eggs, welcome spring”

The poem embodies poetic nuances that Trevens has honed all her life in her poetic output. Her poems have a burst of good cheer, and a celebration of life at its best. Even when sad events must be reckoned with, there is still a sense of the abundance of life itself, and the will to overcome and persevere; and to move on, and learn and enjoy. Trevens likes to rhyme, although not all the poems in this collection rhyme. The book itself is a charming paperback, with a whimsical drawing of a patio with plants and grass, and colorful flowers in spring bloom. Francine’s spirit is intertwined with the flowers themselves. The book consists of seven parts, each with a coupling of two kinds of flowers. Part one, for example, is “Pansies and Waterlilies.” Pansies, she observes, are for Reflection; waterlilies, for Wisdom. The pair of flowers heading Part Two are “Orchids and Larkspurs.” Orchids represent Mature Charm, Larkspurs, Love. The book has seven parts; each headed with a pairing of flowers. In a more serious note, she comments on World War II. In 1944, she writes in “Heaven’s Bars,”

“Heaven has put up bars  
Has any generation  
Lived with grief as great as ours?”

On reflection, she muses that “Life is a gift from an Indian-giver...There’ll be a recall from the manufacturer.” Here is a short one that amusingly explains the poet’s condition. “Muse at 4 a.m. awakens me, her bladder oozing poetry.” She is skeptical of love; her poem about love is entitled, “Four-Letter Scourge.” Her poems encompass the whole panorama of life itself, in rainbow poetic hues. In “What They Wrought,” an older married couple are having a stressful night, until they answer the cry of their grandchild in the guest room, and then, with pride, can now sleep. As for man, he is the weaker sex. In a poem by that name, the husband has a cold, and is cosseting himself under blankets while watching various sports on TV. But it is the wife, heavy with child, who comes home from work to baby him. News organizations don’t escape her sharp eye. In “Wolf Packs,” she expresses her anger “at newscasts that call rumor fact.” “Your feet in slime,” she exclaims. In “Headline,” she takes on a small town that fights a chemical

plant.

“Isolationism’s in the heart:  
of villagers deeming themselves apart.”

Deeply concerned about the life expectancy of our planet, in “Nature Warns,” devastation is predicted if people continue to plunder the planet. She says, “Save this earth, before you further sink and ultimately, make yourselves extinct.” This is a forthright, compelling book of poetry; nothing escapes Francine L. Trevens’ sharp eye and observant mind. Surely, she has the perceptions of a prophet. In “Demanding,” she poses the same questions that are headlines today. She feels that emigres should learn our language, respect our land, and hopefully, in everyone’s interest, theirs and ours, assimilate. On nature, she has a delightful gem entitle, “Nature Talking.” “Like dogs barking, or parrots squawking, thunder’s just nature talking!”

*A Patio of Poems* embraces a wide and fascinating trove of topics and encourages the reader to love our planet, to embrace and cherish its many sublime offerings, and to guard it carefully. Rhyme was forsaken in the 20th Century and freeform verse reigned supreme. So, it is with loud cheers that we welcome her use of rhyme. Rhyme imbues readers with a sense of orderliness, a dollop of fun. And then there’s the joy of coupling. Even if rhyme is only WORDS coupling, still, the idea gushes forth that coupling can be sublime. *A Patio of Poems for Grown-ups* is a paperback with a charming cover in blue, green and lavender and pale orange, of plants, grass and a tree. There are 97 poems in this collection.

To order the book, send an e-mail to [TntClassic@aol.com](mailto:TntClassic@aol.com), or Fax 212-695-3219, or visit the web site, [www.TnTClassicBooks.com](http://www.TnTClassicBooks.com). The book costs \$19.95.

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