

Wonderful World of Worders

Compiled by Jenni Doherty
(Guilkhall Press)

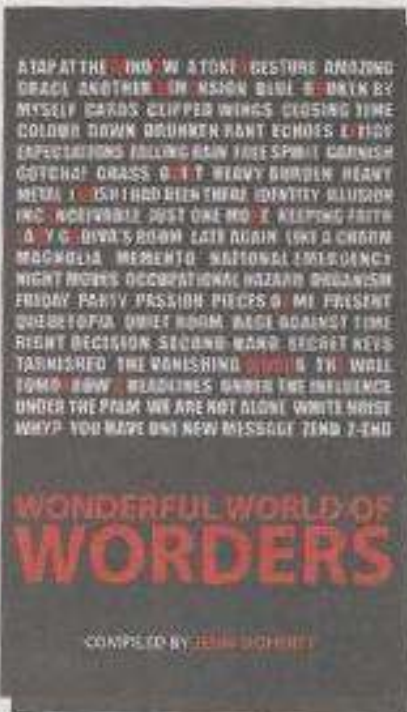
Don't let the title mislead you: this is not some new kind of fantasy saga. In fact, it is a different kind of writing.

'Worders' are internet-based writers who exchange micro-stories online, in the process creating their own unique literary scene. But don't worry if you've never heard of this new genre – allegedly suitable for today's busy lifestyles – for this is the first time that worders have been published in book form.

Worders write micro-stories – the prose equivalent of haiku poetry, or as Derry-based writer and project co-ordinator Jenni Doherty puts it, a "wild, invigorating, exciting extravaganza of assorted literary works."

Wonderful World of Worders presents over 500 such stories. Starting with the same title, different writers give a completely different spin to that starting point, and explore all literary genres in these experimental pieces.

A broad range of topics, from the abstract to the concrete, are covered in alphabetical order, grouping three to five stories with the same title together, and thus giving the



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reader the opportunity to follow a completely different train of thought or a different adventure with each story.

It's the colourful backgrounds of the over 70 authors from 27 different countries that make this a particularly interesting read. Ranging from eight years to 60-plus and from diverse backgrounds, they bring a varied wealth of experience to the prose. For instance, micro-stories with a science fiction spin by one worder develop into a philosophical meditation or surrealism under the keyboard of another writer. It's a celebration of the minds' creativity, a writer's take on the children's game 'Chinese Whisper', facilitated by the world wide web.

The individual miniatures range from 60 to 250 words and take the reader through many different cultures and times. Some are outrageously funny, others sad, or simply beautiful in their poetic language. Together, they comprise a book to go back to; to take up, read a couple of stories and return to later on. Delving into a new imaginary world with each tale, the overall impression is that of a dense collection that slows the reader down and makes one think.

Overall, it's certainly an interesting concept – a slow-food literary snack where quality is not compromised for the sake of readers in a fast-paced world.



Isabel Roleff is a member of the Irish Writers' Exchange, and has written articles and reviews for various magazines in her native Germany. More information can be found at www.irishwriters-exchange.com