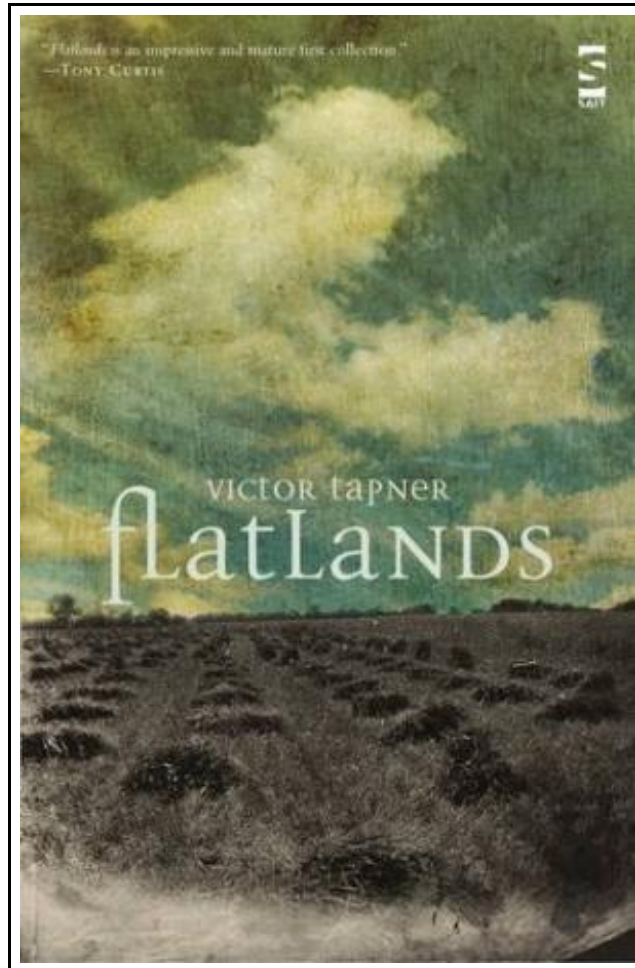


Flatlands



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Reviews

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(Dr. Alexa Rogahn)

FLATLANDS



Salt Publishing, United Kingdom, 2010. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 212 x 136 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize and the East Anglian Book Awards. Steeped in the imagery of windswept fenland and the smoke of the roundhouse, Flatlands unearths a living world from a time before Britain's recorded history. Set in what is now East Anglia, this sequence of prize-winning poems takes us on a panoramic journey from the flint miners and hunters of four thousand years ago to the harsh existence of Bronze Age villagers, Celtic tribal warriors and Boudica's army rebelling against Roman rule. Written in a stripped language with stark, sculpted forms, the poems evoke voices whose haunting rhythms and echoes arise in a landscape where a wooden idol, buried in river mud for millennia, tells us: Find me in your own face . In this deep past, we see a reflection of ourselves. Through their often bleak symbolism and metaphorical associations, the poems explore universal themes: love and infidelity, ageing and bereavement, tenderness, political suppression and, ultimately, the eruption of murderous hatreds. As eastern England becomes an early cultural crossing point with the European mainland, sea-trade develops, but Rome's influence destabilises the local population. Regional kings mint currencies to reinforce their power, villagers are captured by neighbours and sold as slaves to foreign masters, tribes fight for territory and resources, and refugees from Gaul flee across the Channel as the legions grip tightens. The narrative thread that runs through Flatlands, reminiscent of the ancient trackways where early farmers drove their animals, leads to a bloody climax, until the ancestral voices fade back into the sacred streams and pastures.



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