

Leeds Trinity University

Oz Hardwick

Prose poems, written by members of the Prose Poetry Project, November 2014 to July 2017, compiled by the editors

Biographical note:

Oz Hardwick is a poet, writer, photographer based in York, UK. In the guise of Prof Paul Hardwick, he is Programme Leader for Creative Writing at Leeds Trinity University, where he also teaches Medieval Literature. Most of the time, these conjoined identities get along just fine.

Stepping stones bleach in the indifferent sun, become mountains, crack to scree and, finally, sand. Frogs make way for lizards, rocking, throwing shapes in their jerkysmooth dancing. I see it all in the space of one deep drag on my first cigarette in three years, seven weeks, and two days. I'd add the minutes, but already a few ribs and the skull of some horned animal – cow? ox? – have appeared, barely casting a shadow. I flick the butt to anywhere and try to remember water: the sun's noon-high, and doesn't look like moving.

(from *tract* 2017)