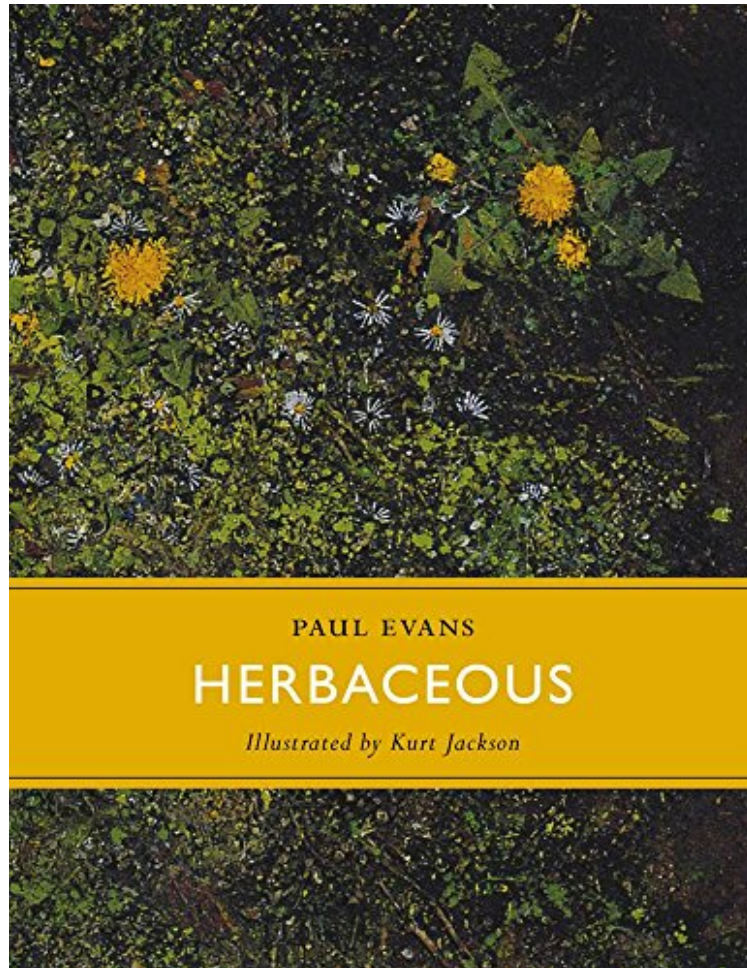


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Herbaceous (Little Toller Monographs)

Paul Evans

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Paul Evans : Herbaceous (Little Toller Monographs) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Herbaceous (Little Toller Monographs):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very unusual By JackBluegrassA reviewer in The Guardian says this is a series of "prose poems". It technically is. To me, it's free association from someone very knowledgeable about plants which may not be well known to most of us and fueled by some intoxicant that lets the imagination flourish. The end result is not satisfying.

Herbaceous is gardening with words. It is a book of audacious botany and poetic vision which asks us to look anew at our relationship with plants and celebrates their power to nourish the human spirit.

"well-tuned prose poems charting the seasonal cycle of herbaceous plants" NEW STATESMAN "the John Clare of his

generation, feet not just on the ground, but deep in the ditch. " JOHN VIDAL, --The GuardianA one-time gardener in Wales and New York, Evans narrates the natural history of the UK through an exploration of flowers, herbs, and weeds. This volume tells the story of each plant within the seasonal context, beginning with the springtime yellow of celandine, trout lily, and cowslip, and ending with winter brown lady's bedstraw, hogweed, knapweed, and devils-bit scabious. Considering each plant in turn, Evans writes prose poems thick with metaphor, myth, and sensory detail. He weaves bits of cultural memory into the poetry references to Robert Frost, medieval medicine, and Aztec gods abound and strikes a bittersweet tone throughout, showing how climate change, imperialism, and industrialization have encroached on the plants' story. Ultimately, the book implicates humanity in disrupting the natural world, a place that we rely on for narrative and cultural memory. VERDICT Recommended for readers of poetry and natural history, this ode to plants is at once beautiful and nostalgic. --Library JournalAbout the AuthorPAUL EVANS spent many years as a gardener working in rose nurseries, graveyards, historic gardens in Wales and a botanical garden in New York. He is a writer, broadcaster and award-winning playwright, best known for his 'Country Diary' in The Guardian and various natural history programmes and drama-documentaries for BBC Radio 4. Paul has also been a performance poet, a nature conservationist, holds a PhD in philosophy, and is currently a lecturer at Bath Spa University. He lives in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, with his family.