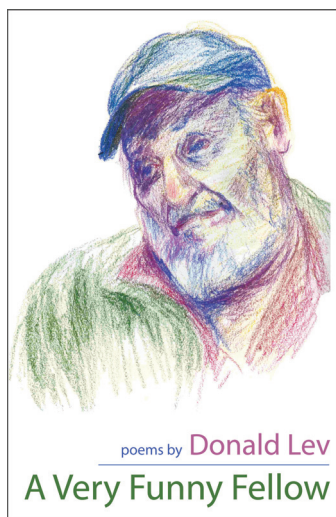


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NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *A Very Funny Fellow* by Donald Lev



February 2, 2012 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the release of *A Very Funny Fellow* by Donald Lev. His latest book is a compilation of ninety-two short poems, mostly written over the last decade and a half. These are poems of inner observation, of quotidian magic or lack of magic, in which one finds wisdom, wry humor, and echoes of one's own complexities. The book opens in a Brooklyn donut shop with the author's irritation at the delay in the refilling of his breakfast special coffee, continues through bar room, temple, and snake hole, and ends in a house whose floor is covered by "box loads of books and neuroses." The real subject of each poem is the knot in the core of human existence, which each reader is allowed the pleasure of untying.

"The title of Donald Lev's new book—half of a statement made about the author by the late Marguerite Harris—is as perceptive as it is obvious, as you will soon see when you read it. What Marguerite should have said for the second half, instead of 'but not a poet' (she spoke during a period of mandated formalism), is that Donald's poems speak with a wisdom that back then belied his age but now resonates with nearly all of us." —Martin Mitchell

"Donald Lev is not only a Very Funny Fellow but a first-rate poet of profound wit and charm. This is a collection of a hundred or so quick anecdotes and observations that work as allegories for the human condition and national political ethos with titles whose aptness are reflexively summoned at the end of each poem." —Andy Clausen

"Donald Lev is American poetry's great taxi driver, telling stories so rich, observant and personal that you forget all about the running meter and the appointments you need to keep. This collection has a huge, comfy back seat." —Lawrence Bush, editor, *Jewish Currents*

Donald Lev was born in New York City in 1936. He attended Hunter College, worked in the wire rooms of both *The Daily News* and *The New York Times*, and then drove a taxi cab for twenty years (with a 6 year hiatus in which he ran messages for and contributed poetry to *The Village Voice* and operated the Home Planet Bookshop on the Lower East Side). His earliest poems appeared in print in 1958 and he started his first small press magazine, *HYN Anthology*. He met Enid Dame (1943-2003) at a N. Y. Poet's Cooperative meeting in 1976. They became life partners in 1978, and in 1979 founded the literary tabloid *Home Planet News*, which Lev still publishes.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



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