



Cover art by LA-based artist Matthew Couper



“Simon Sweetman has a terrible gift – he cannot bring himself to lie. He can be cruel, he can be sentimental, but he will always tell you the truth ... he will meander, ramble, rant and hector, make an awful joke then acknowledge it and half-apologise, fall flat on his face then quietly confide some sad obscure fact that will harrow up your heart.”

—Carl Shuker

The Death of Music Journalism

Simon Sweetman

To be released October 2020

ISBN 978-1-98-859527-6

RRP \$25 • 164mm x 224mm • 90pp • poetry

Selling points:

- Debut poetry collection from well-known Wellington-based music reviewer, blogger and podcaster.
- Poetry about music, love, family, the life of a music reviewer and freelancer.

Simon Sweetman – blogger, reviewer, podcaster, and author of *On Song: Stories Behind New Zealand's Pop Classics*, releases his first poetry collection, *The Death of Music Journalism*. Simon's been writing poems since he was first listening to bands on his Walkman, but then he started sharing them via social media and open mic nights. Word got around and he was a sleeper hit at LitCrawl's Lit-Sync For Your Life and the 2020 Variety for Fierys. Marking a pivot from the razor-sharp and sometimes controversial music writing he is best known for, Simon's collection is as wide-ranging as his career to date. He writes about late-night encounters on the phone with rock stars, hanging out as a student in Wellington flats, the simplicity of time spent with family and the unpredictable life of a freelance music reviewer, and what happens when these things occasionally intersect. A natural storyteller whose poetry is filled with characters both famous and ordinary, this eagerly awaited collection is unpredictable, anarchic, playful and surprisingly heartfelt.



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