

ANNE ROUSE



OX-EYE

MEDIA KIT

# *Ox-Eye* by Anne Rouse

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## OX-EYE

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Poetry

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## LINKS & E-MAIL

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In exploring personal and social change, *Ox-Eye* will appeal to readers of contemporary literature and poetry, of all ages, and to educators in these fields. Students of feminism, too, will find much to interest them.

## BIOGRAPHY

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Anne Rouse's poetry has appeared in many anthologies and journals, including the Guardian, London Review of Books, Financial Times, and the Times Literary Supplement, and in the US, The Atlantic and Poetry.

Born in Washington D.C. and raised in Virginia, she read history at the University of London. She later trained as both a general and mental health nurse, working in the NHS and for a mental health charity before becoming a freelance writer.

Her first two collections, *Sunset Grill* and *Timing*, were Poetry Book Society Recommendations. *The Upshot: New and Selected Poems*, was a Times Literary Supplement Book of the Year in 2008.

She has read her work or led workshops in a number of settings, from the Almeida Theatre to Tate Modern. She's been a Hawthornden Fellow, and was the Royal Literary Fund Visiting Writing Fellow at the University of Glasgow 2000-2002, St Mary's College, Queens University, Belfast 2004-2005, and the Courtauld Institute, London, 2008. She lives in East Sussex.

## CRITICAL RESPONSE TO ANNE ROUSE'S WORK

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In both "Polaroid", published in the TLS in 2013, and "Finish Line", which appeared in the paper three years later, Rouse interrogates a photograph for what it can reveal about casual inequalities of gender and class that often hide in plain sight.

*Andrew McCulloch, TLS Online, on two of the poems in Ox-Eye. 24 July 2018*

Anne Rouse is a poet of real lyric gifts... These poems are charged, satisfying and exquisitely crafted.

*Ian People, The Manchester Review, October 2008*

... the promising Rouse distils the newly flexible female lyric..."

*Jane Dowson and Alice Entwistle, A History of Twentieth-Century British Women's Poetry (2005) p.194. on Timing*

Rouse is a poet of great formal deftness, with a fine gift for social satire and portraiture, and a comic's timing. Her formalism can sometimes disguise an experimental streak, however, and her poems are far more intricate constructions than their forms sometimes declare. These are socially and politically engaged poems of great wit and speed, informed by a keen literary intelligence and a talent for an almost forensically close observation of the species.

*Don Paterson and Charles Simic, New British Poetry (2004)*

## SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Did your background in mental health affect the writing in *Ox-Eye*?

Some of the poems are written from an obviously feminist perspective. Do you feel there's a danger that such a message could obscure the poetry in an individual poem?

How has being born in the US influenced your poetic voice?

Your undergraduate degree was in history, and some of the poems, such as "Grotto" and "Ode to a Puritan", are set in other eras. Do you have a personal affinity with the past, or was this more a political choice?

You've described the book as being about personal and social change. Could you say more about this?