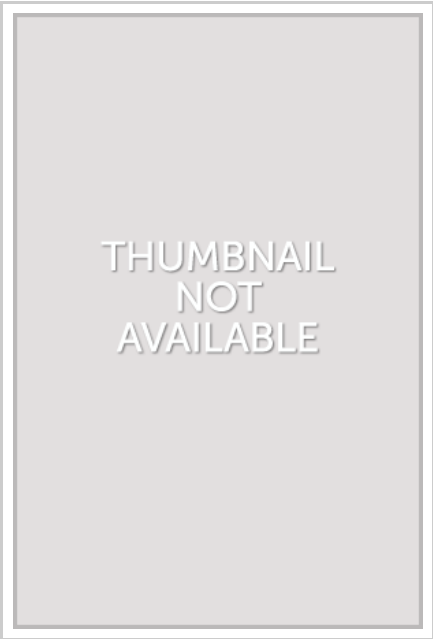


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By Wayne Clifford

Erin, Ontario, Canada: Porcupine's Quill, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 2004. Soft cover. Book Condition: New. 1st Edition. Original printed wraps. 64 pp. Octavo. On Abducting the 'Cello is Clifford's first trade publication since 1979. It is an important book, and an unlikely publication. Clifford is arguably the Missing Link, the one Thread in the continuum of Canadian Verse that connects the radical formalism of bpNichol and Company (I'm thinking here of McCaffery, Dutton, and the Four Horsemen) with the traditional forms practised by many of PQL's current roster (I'm thinking here of P.K. Page who, doubtless, would insist on her righteous place in hipsterdom -- but in the Forties, presumably, rather than the Sixties). Outrageous images, snippets of gossip and chat, a rare verbal dexterity and mastery of form all collide in Wayne Clifford's unusual and unexpected sequence of sonnets. One of the oldest of poetic forms, the sonnet is here re-invented and proves itself, in Clifford's hands, commodious enough for all types of speech, from high diction to gutter slang, all in impeccable rhyme and stanza. Informed throughout with a profound love of music in all its forms, On Abducting the 'Cello ranges from Kodaly to Stevie Wonder, Elmer Fudd...

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