

in a disappearing world we lay our jigsaws,
retrieve pieces that are missing, some break
off, fall from the edge, we re-imagine them at
night, clutching at straws, hoping they'll turn up
out of the darkness, we have pens by our
bedside, we have books with blank pages, just
in case, for the missing piece, the one that melted
away after a glass of wine, the one we always miss
in recounts of all the pieces, the one that slipped
away, shines brightly in another person's jigsaw
(the shape is right, but the details are all wrong!)

Jeltje's poems are also full of movement, leaving the house, catching a train or a tram, flying free, riding a bicycle, swimming and driving. These are poems going places, acutely observing everything as she passes through (at whatever speed).

But then the walls come up, whether it is the increasingly armed inspectors on public transport, the barriers between people as well as the walls of hatred, derision and condescension. There are battles to be waged against the world, external ones cars that blow exhaust fumes at pedestrians, and internal ones when feeling trapped.

th language hurts

it's a form of torture, it's a form of torture

painted into a corner not letting go its a form of torture

without a name and holding on not letting anyone down th

Poems about her parents' memories of World War Two appear late in the book with improvisations of living. She writes:

Waiting for my mother

after World War Two

I taught myself to walk/fall/walk

It's this resilience that shines through the poems, as well as through the land, the birds, trees, beaches and the Merri Creek where John Batman made a treaty with the people of the Kulin nation.

Flying into the Hands of Strangers is a collection of poems with political resonances, but they are also playful. They would make a wonderful resource in schools because of their different forms and poetic method, it would send the message that poems are about real life. A serious message embedded in joyful existence. Read and listen to her poems.

Susan Hawthorne is a poet and publisher. She is the author of eight collections of poetry including, *Cow* (2011) shortlisted for the Kenneth Slessor Poetry Award, *Earth's Breath* (2009) shortlisted for the Judith Wright Poetry Prize as well as a verse novel *Limen* (2013) and most recently a novel, *Dark Matters* (2017). Her forthcoming collection, *The Sacking of the Muses* will be published in 2019.

