

In this new book of poems Rupert Loydell writes about the world he now finds himself living in, questioning the damage caused by time, memory, lockdown, aging, politics, lies, neglect and disinformation. Whether grappling with social history, corrupt data, road-building, Grenfell Tower, urban graffiti, faith and fine art, or 'the fickleness of language', these damaged prayers and disbelieving explorations are 'configured for maximum twitch'. And despite the resigned conclusion that 'we are only ever likely to have a clear backwards view', and even though 'it is totally absurd to expect answers that might help explain our world', Loydell clings to the way that 'memory is all about being able to change the past', and notes that 'the future is here right now'.

'At times hard-hitting, at times biting, Loydell's poems pull beauty from the broken contexts of a rudderless society. It is poetry of rebellion and of urgency that underscores the need for poetry, art, conversation, and friendship in what is rapidly becoming an alienating, contextless world.' —Andrea Moorhead

'Rupert Loydell's world is strangely beautiful, or beautifully strange, but it's also strangely familiar. What I like about Loydell's work is his commitment to a kind of truth, not to experience so much as to language.' —*Magma*

'Loydell explores how we navigate the world around us, seen and unseen; how we might wonder, explain, and start to understand.' —*Between*

'[...] brilliantly surreal, acutely observed and funny.' —*Ambit*

Rupert Loydell is the editor of *Stride*, a contributing editor to *International Times* and a Senior Lecturer at Falmouth University. He has many books of poetry in print, including *Dear Mary*, *The Return of the Man Who Has Everything*, *Wildlife* and *Ballads of the Alone*, all published by Shearsman, who also produced *Encouraging Signs*, a book of essays, articles and interviews. He has co-authored many collaborative works, and edited anthologies for Knives Forks & Spoons Press, Shearsman, and Salt. He also writes about post-punk music, pedagogy, poetry and film for academic journals and books.

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RUPERT M LOYDELL

THE AGE OF DESTRUCTION AND LIES

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