

First World War Poems chosen by Andrew Motion. Faber and Faber 2003.

In a year dominated by the brutality of war this small but powerful collection is a reminder of the horror and tragedy of armed conflict and the effect that it has on combatants and civilians alike.

The poetry of the First World War has a deserved reputation as being without equal, and this is enhanced by the Poet Laureate's sensitive and satisfying selection from a large corpus of available material. The expected poems – by Brooke, Owen and Sassoon are there, but there are plenty of lesser known pieces too, not least those by Helen Mackay, Eleanor Farjeon and T S Eliot.

This is an anthology for all who love fine poetry, but even more for anyone desirous of gaining a deeper understanding of the devastating impact of war.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh