

The Book of My Enemy, Collected verse 1958-2003 by Clive James.
Picador 2003.

Those whose knowledge of Clive James is restricted to his appearances on television will find this collection of his poetry a revelation. James is a writer of the highest quality, both in prose and poetry, and the Book of My Enemy is as eloquent a testimony to his prowess in the latter as *Even As We Speak* was in the former. There is humour, passion, pain and even some vitriol. Some of the poems have a transcendent quality, not least *Will those Responsible come Forward?* And *Son of a Soldier*, and the verse diary *Poem of the Year* (1982) is awesome in its breadth and quality.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh