

# JOHN SUROWIECKI

## FLIES

### ABOUT THE BOOK:

In *Flies*, John Surowiecki's fourth collection of poems, flies do all the talking. Eight generations of them are the narrators of this funny and highly unusual series of poems. But underneath the jokes and puns and goofing around, there is a serious theme — the loneliness of old age — for the flies are waiting for one Sam Jeden to die. Sam's passing is actually something of a religious experience for the flies. Death is their god, their food giver. In fact, flies cannot speak death's name.

The collection — the complete title is *Flies; or, the Last Days, Death and Putrefaction of Mr. Sam Jeden as Narrated by Eight Generations of Musca Domestica* — is not a black comedy of despair and nihilism, but a comedy of a distinctly lighter shade that ultimately embraces the world and all the good and bad in it. The book ends in a Salut au Monde, half Whitman and half Goodnight Moon.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

John Surowiecki is the inaugural recipient of the Poetry Foundation's Verse Drama Pegasus Award for *My Nose and Me*, based on *Further Adventures of My Nose*. Surowiecki is the author of three poetry collections, *Watching Cartoons before Attending a Funeral* (White Pine Press, 2003), *The Hat City after Men Stopped Wearing Hats* (The Word Works, 2006 Washington Prize), and *Barney and Gienka* (CW Press, 2010). He is also the author of six chapbooks, most recently, *Mr. Z., Mrs. Z., J.Z., S.Z.*, published by Ugly Duckling Presse.



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Media contact: Greg Ford • [udp\\_mailbox@yahoo.com](mailto:udp_mailbox@yahoo.com)