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ABOUT *THE ANIMALS* BY RICHARD GROSSMAN

Richard Grossman's 400-poem pastoral, *The Animals*, is an environmental bible that affirms the beauty and holiness of nature and the quintessential unity of all life.

The Animals is set in a mythical field where a shepherd tends his flock of 200 different creatures ranging from the amoeba to the whale. At the center of the book, each animal tells its own intimate story in its own unique voice to the assembled group, ultimately revealing how all life shares the same suffering, dignity and joy.

Surrounding the animal poems are 200 dialogues between the shepherd and the flock on a wide range of issues. Prophetic and mystical, at times humorous and vulnerable, this humane guide leads us on a wondrous journey toward a deeper appreciation of the sanctity of nature. In the culminating poems of the book, the shepherd and animals join in an extended hymn to the luminous forces that bind them together in birth and death.

Poet and critic James Bertolino has described *The Animals* as "a consummate performance. The objective of voicing the aspirations of the planet, employing the great brotherhood-sisterhood of the animals as a metaphor which reaches inward to the earth and outward to humanity is one which demands that this book be considered in the company of other works by Chaucer, Dante, Milton, Blake, Whitman, and Williams."

"These poems initiate us into a realm of total celebration," said Tenshin Zenki Reb Anderson of the San Francisco Zen Center. "*The Animals* is a manual of inspiration for people who are working to nourish and heal the earth."

The Animals is the first offering from American Letters Press and one of 50 elements—including works of prose, poetry, art, music, dance, architecture, and theater—that will be featured in Grossman's *Breeze Avenue*, the author's forthcoming 3,000,000-page book conceived as a literary analog of heaven.

The Animals, 424 pages, softcover, with author's foreword, illustrations by Nicolas Africano, 4.75 x 7 x .5 inches, Smyth sewn, ISBN-13: 978-0-9846497-0-9, MSRP \$22.95, is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Atlas Books, and Powell's Books among other booksellers. An e-book edition of *The Animals* is also available.

For additional information about the author and his work, please visit www.richardgrossman.com.

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