

# New Gracesprings Collective Fiction – Summer 2010

## ORANGES

a novella for puppets

Alexander Forbes

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The novella, *Oranges*, is Alexander Forbes' response to reading and studying Samuel Beckett's novels and is a microcosm of *Sam* – an earlier novel Forbes wrote about Beckett. The practice of turning a novel into a puppet play is an old one, dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Puppets ask to be drawn and Forbes did not ignore their plea. For drawings that capture the characters and scenes of the novella with richness of insight and wit, and with the greatest technical virtuosity, Forbes turned to Natalia Vanessa Kawatski to illustrate his novella and for the cover painting.

“... His brilliant mind gives us two Beckett puppets on tour to the B.C. Interior, on the lam from big city life, ever on the look out for *Oranges*. Oh, the bittersweet oranges of this life and perhaps the next! If you, yourself, cannot stop what you are doing to pursue oranges down alleys and off-ramps, do the next best thing: read this book, a juicy romp from start to finish, and always in season.”

Caroline Woodward, author of *Disturbing the Peace*, *Alaska Highway Two-Step*, and *Penny Loves Wade, Wade Loves Penny*

Alexander Forbes teaches at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC. His poems have appeared in journals throughout Canada from British Columbia to Quebec, as well as across the US from California to New York. He has given many readings in both countries, including the Vancouver International Writers' Festival, the Shuswap Lake International Writers' Festival, and the Red Sky poetry series in Seattle.

He often collaborates with artists in other media. One of many joint exhibitions with the painter Tricia Sellmer resulted in the book *Rumours of Bees* (Red Heifer Press), which was followed by the gallery exhibition catalogues *Double Exposure*, *boppin' with Mr. Mynah*, *Natural Correspondences*, and *Sun Records and Texaco Stadiums*. Two collaborations with Capitol Records Gold Album recipient Henry Small (former lead singer of PRISM) and Tina Moore have resulted in the albums *The Bill Miner Roadshow* and the just-released *the beauty of the city in the last hour of the night*.

*Oranges: a novella for puppets* has just been released by Gracesprings Collective, and a new book of poems, *after the moon a blue ocean*, is forthcoming from Red Heifer.