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A SPELL, A CHARM Poetry by John Leonard

John Leonard is an Australian poet and writer whose work concentrates on the necessity for people at this crucial moment in history not to lose sight of humanity's place as part of nature, and the necessity for rejection of the imperatives forced on people by the dominant political culture, in favour of humanity, flexibility, humour and insight.

In his powerful fifth collection, John Leonard dissects contemporary life and ideas in intense, but human, lyric poetry. This four-part collection begins with a section of meditative poems of everyday moments, often of great peace ('The Hope and Trust of the Times'). Following a section of satires on the complacencies and delusions of our world, a section on poetry and other arts reinstates a feeling of the grounded and the valid ('Sadness is no Longer Sad'). The final section, ('Change beyond Change'), is a series of reflections on the end-game our society is playing with the global environment, and necessarily ends on a sombre note.

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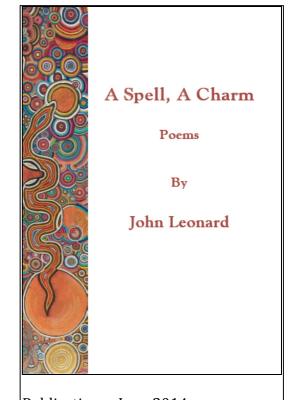
John Leonard was born in the UK, and from 1984 to 1987 studied at Oxford University. In 1991 he moved to Australia. He currently lives in Canberra, and was poetry editor of the journal *Overland* from 2003 to 2007.

Previous works:

Poetry: Unlove (1991); 100 Elegies for Modernity (1997); Jesus in Kashmir (2003); Braided Lands (2010)

Criticism: *The Way of Poetry* (2010)

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