Okay, I like/ the jerk anyway

colloquial, he might borrow the words of one of the prostitutes in “Sunday with Julian” and say

“soft and fluffy”. His steady belief in The Incarnation leads him to follow St Francis and seek both

wooden pace, since he/ came home, a metal box ...
and dying (the virtuous death) and the poet ends with a kind of ‘Will not die’. It’s also difficult to see how the line ‘in the things of this world’ fits in.

It would be tempting to conclude that the poet is Lusia, not a poet. But there is more to this than the content of the poem, not a surprising that it is, like Manchester City, also open to poets of whatever persuasion. (The collection is, in fact, published as a companion to a book by Lestat de St. Pierre, a poet of English, not the real pistil.)

Lucas divides the middle section of his book into war poems. It is open a fairly obvious form

... Cups and saucers
He has invented an elaborate past
Later still, after being briefly reunited with his father, he takes a girlfriend round to meet him.
The other boys have noticed this.
He has invented an elaborate past
The story continues to unfold in episodic fashion. Figura’s discomfort at living with his uncle is not explored. It is enough to say that by the time he is nine years old, Figura’s mother is dead and his father is in hospital. He is taken in by relatives.

Lucas makes more use of traditional forms and rhyme schemes. He manages to capture the spirit of the times in many of his poems, for instance, “Cheesy” in the poem “Mission accomplished”; my being only a little younger than Bodo and Lucas, I found the 1940s and 50s poems quite

Next Year Will Be Better

... after we’ve seen off Hitler,
... Cups and saucers
... Cups and saucers

... Cups and saucers
And Andy Croft’s “Not So” uses a quieter, more resigned voice to issue its challenge to the not-so-new

We’ll build it in the suburbs away from all the chavs
We’ll build it in the suburbs, the suburbs, the suburbs
We’ll have a free school, a free school and keep the riff-raff out

Brandon’s “Towards the Knife” is an excellent and mainly serious first and second sections contain a few weaker pieces – birthday greetings for friends and a found poem consisting of (admittedly melodramatic) names of bad boys in time gone by.

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Vas Dias's poetic subjects vary widely. He offers several meditations on works of art which both we didn't know”, which occurs throughout “The Lascaux Variations”, illustrates his concern with how forgotten people she is helping us to remember.

She also teases us with line breaks which cause meaning to wriggle away from expectation: inversions (“ this being not the end”) ; an extra word slipped in to avoid a cliché (“Chest tears, dung for the tanning yards and by scavenging in Thames mud or in the sewers underneath the river. The prose poems in “Portraits of Women” sympathetically describe Jack the Ripper’s victims and gently dignify them. (Mary Jane Kelly was “loved by many men and I am telling the truth:"

...The Finders of London

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Bartholomew-Biggs skinned the frog, pinned it out the full weight of his shoulders finger at

At times, the poems stand back as bitter commentary and accusation. She points the translating fudge? through the most trivial aspects of life under communism – on a shelf with a forgotten tin of cat food She imagines being interrogated and praying you will be able to summon up

'...as a failed comedy early post-war times of intrigue and confusion: sometimes it is

's experience with an intensity which reflects the fact that

'...is his partner in life as well as his co-author. She gives a cinematic quality to the

way to London and starts work as a builder. One day someone

is released. In spite of being a qualified comforts out of scraps and leftovers is reminiscent of episodes from the Colditz story. the extra second to take a drink.

The story becomes grimmer when Ale is arrested and imprisoned for three and a half

and slightly deadpan style. This tendency towards understatement is most effective as he

system. Although Ale

be very familiar with. There are some helpful explanatory notes but the real strength of

go in a slightly puzzling way against a background of events that English readers may not

is Robert Vas Dias's ninth collection and it includes new poems alongside some which have

book published in 1918 as

...is Robert Vas Dias's ninth collection and it includes new poems alongside some which have

been selected from other publications over the last ten years; but the book as a whole fits very well

...and a
distance.

"How to Save Someone Who's Hanging from a Cliff" where it works very well to produce a

(Readers who are not keen on this sort of thing will not find there is too much of it.)

The spacing and layout here suggest a breathlessness which suits the subject matter; but in other

fine examples of prose poems as well as free-verse pieces, some with regular stanzas and some

include a poem involving the US general John Fremont and the poisonous and invasive shrub

large fox       big brush

fox on the doormat
tell you this:

This is a most unusual book which, in fewer than 90 pages, presents

It's not hard to be able to say that he expressed disapproval and what he failed to express an

The state prosecutor's frighteningly surreal logic regards possession of a forbidden

denied, will be

dispensation procedures apply to

s a n c t i o n s

addressed with abuse

of life-threatening all

doings...and the cone of abuse

The moss is growing up to the gate

They called it an investigation.

They didn't name it that of course.

The Man With The Rubber Stamps

This narrative is interspersed with poems capturing and heightening the

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is Robert Vas Dias's ninth collection and it includes new poems alongside some which have

been selected from other publications over the last ten years; but the book as a whole fits very well

...and a
distance.
Please call me if you are coming. I will go to the bridge and wait for you.  

But I might miss you. 

I could lie in the hammock, try to read...  

or go back to the lake where we first met. 

You might not come...

By the end of the book we feel that we have come some way towards knowing Aleš and Jane. Hence we can feel glad that, after turbulent times, they are now able to enjoy relative calm in a life together that is split between England and the Czech Republic. And yet there is a small coda included in the last few pages which should prevent British readers too easily making smug comparisons between the UK and the old eastern bloc countries. In October 2007, Jane and Aleš join an anti-Trident demonstration at Faslane...