

Two Poems

The Happy Prince

JANET FRAME

In the children's record of the Happy Prince,
before each gold flake is peeled from the Prince's body,
the voice orders, Turn the Page, Turn the Page,
supposing that children do not know when to turn,
and may live at one line for many years,
sliding and bouncing boisterously along the words,
breaking the closed letters for a warm place to sleep.
Turn the Page, Turn the Page.



Photo: Curtis Brown / Courtesy: Bonnier

By the time the Happy Prince has lost his eyes,
and his melted heart is given to the poor,
and his body taken from the market-place and burned,
there is no need to order, Turn the Page,
for the children have grown up, and know when to turn,
and knowing when, will never again know where.

Dunedin

JANET FRAME (1924–2004) was one of New Zealand's most distinguished writers at the time of her death in January 2004. A nominee for the Neustadt International Prize for Literature (2002) and the Nobel Prize in Literature, she wrote eleven novels, five short-story collections, one volume of poetry, and an autobiography, including the illustrated children's work *Mona Minim and the Smell of the Sun* (1969). Frame's life story was dramatized in the 1990 film *An Angel at My Table*, directed by Jane Campion, and a collection of her verse, *The Goose Bath*, will be published by Random House New Zealand in 2006.

The sheer rock walls of Milford Sound, once described by Rudyard Kipling as the eighth wonder of the world. Photo: Merleyn Ruth Bell

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