

*Leslie Tate's memoir is by turns an elegy for a lost childhood, a tribute to the power of literature and a demand for the right to identity in a world that turns too easily on those who differ from the conventional.'*

HEAVEN'S RAGE is an imaginative autobiography. Reporting on feelings people don't usually own up to, Leslie Tate explores addiction, cross-dressing and the hidden sides of families. Writing lyrically, he brings together stories of bullying, childhood dreams, thwarted creativity and late-life illness, discovering at their core the transformative power of words to rewire the brain and reconnect with life.

#### **About the author**

Leslie studied Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. He has been shortlisted for the Bridport, Geoff Stevens and Wivenhoe Prizes and is the author of the trilogy, *Lavender Blues: Three Shades of Love*.

Leslie runs a comedy club, a poetry group and a unique mixed arts show in his hometown of Berkhamsted, UK.

Leslie is married to fellow-author Sue Hampton and together they call themselves *Authors in Love* – They give talks and workshops to schools, library and writers' groups and perform at festivals, using music and pictures to enthuse audiences for different types of writing. They share creative ideas walking in the countryside, read and edit each other's work and enjoy gardens, vegan food, unorthodox Christianity and dance at Sadler's Wells.

#### **What people say**

'There is a raw candour to his struggles with alcohol and coming out as transgender, but there is no self-pity here, more a gesture of companionship amid life's twisting fortunes. Just as it is the characters who bring a story to life, so he reminds us that our lives are enriched by the characterful and the curious.'

Light-footed poems stud the prose like gemstones, and these shifts of gear reflect the truth that we host not an internal monologue but a dialogue of multi-faceted voices. Leslie Tate's joyful embrace of the gamut of linguistic possibilities is the culmination of a quest for the right to write his own story, both figuratively and now on the page.' *Jonathan Ruppin, Literary Director Orson and Co. Founder, PEN Book Club. English PEN Writers in Translation Committee. Judge for the Costa Novel Award, the Guardian First Book Award, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Award and the Desmond Elliott Prize.*

**Category:** Life History

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# *Heaven's Rage*

by Leslie Tate

For more information, editorial opportunities, interview requests or review copies please contact Anne by email [tslbooks@outlook.com](mailto:tslbooks@outlook.com)

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