

**NEW TITLE  
INFORMATION  
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**PUBLICATION DETAILS**

A Strange Beautiful Excitement  
Redmer Yska

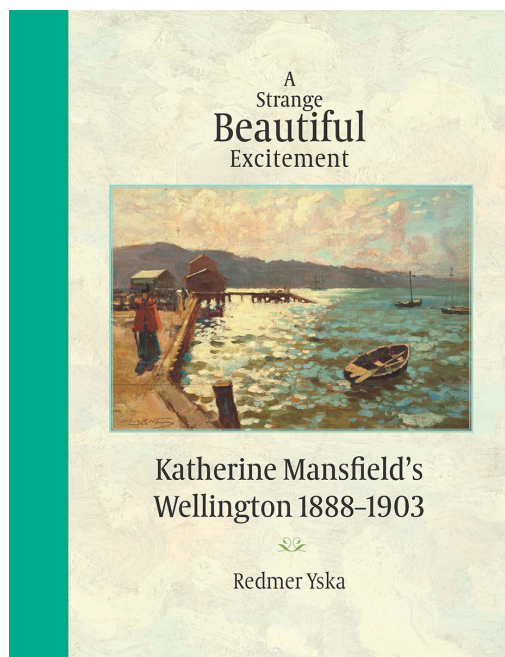
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See below for ordering information



# A Strange Beautiful Excitement

**Katherine Mansfield's Wellington**

Redmer Yska

**SELLING POINTS**

- Vivid, mesmerising, original
- Hardback gift format
- Foreword by Vincent O'Sullivan
- 'Simply splendid' – Fiona Kidman

How does a city make a writer? Described by Fiona Kidman as a 'ravishing, immersing read,' *A Strange Beautiful Excitement* is a 'wild ride' through the Wellington of Katherine Mansfield's childhood.

From the grubby, wind-blasted streets of Thorndon to the hushed green valley of Karori, author Redmer Yska, himself raised in Karori, retraces Mansfield's old ground: the sights, sounds and smells of the rickety colonial capital, as experienced by the budding writer.

Along the way his encounters and dogged research – into her Beauchamp ancestry, the social landscape, the festering, deadly surroundings – lead him (and us) to reevaluate long-held conclusions about the writer's shaping years. They also lead to a thrilling discovery.

This haunting and beautifully vivid book combines fact and fiction, biography and memoir, as Yska rediscovers Mansfield's Wellington, unearthing her childhood as he goes, shining a new lamp on old territory.

*It's not enough to say I immensely enjoyed A Strange Beautiful Excitement ... it's simply splendid.*

– Dame Fiona Kidman

*... the best account I have ever read of Wellington and Karori as they were in Mansfield's day ... Vivid and vigorous, it is a pleasure to read.* – Kathleen Jones, KM biographer

## AUTHOR

**Redmer Yska** is a Wellington-born writer and historian. He has published books about postwar teenagers ('bodgies and widgees'), Dutch New Zealanders like himself, and a commissioned history of Wellington City. He was awarded the National Library Research Fellowship to write a history of *NZ Truth*, published in 2010. Yska was the major recipient of a New Zealand History Research Trust Fund Award in 2014, allowing him to write this book.

