

Review by Graham Linscott of  
*Strandloop* ( 2016), by Norman Morrissey,  
(Echoing Green Press, Fish Hoek)  
in *The Mercury*, Durban, 24 November, 2016

## Moving moments with master poet Morrissey

### STRANDLOOP

Author: Norman Morrissey  
Publisher: Echoing Green Press  
Review: Graham Linscott

THIS collection of poems jotted down almost every day over 36 years, provides a trove of material – dense, profound and with the occasional wry tweak.

This is quality literature, described on the cover by Nigel Bell, former editor of *The English Academy Review*, as “a revelation and a delight”. “A revelation in that as one reads the conviction grows ever stronger that one has in one’s hands the work of a major poet, with no equal standing among current South African writers and few, if any,

in the past... Morrissey is a poet of international stature.” An example:

*Haga-Haga  
In the 'twenties,  
We couldn't have  
sat on this porch an  
hour without whales  
cruising by,  
Freighting warm  
blood, singing endless  
songs*



*From pole to  
tropics,  
Magic palm-  
tree breaths  
Cresting  
cruising islands;  
And now  
Just this gap on  
the soul's horizon  
this dead key  
on the board of  
Creation.*

Another:  
*Lark Eggs  
A little Bushman, graceful  
backed  
Carefully laying visions on  
living rock  
Fine-wrought windows on  
Eternity  
Left like lark eggs in the  
veld.  
It's beautiful stuff, worth  
returning to again and again.*