
FIRING AT RANDOM
SELECTED ESSAYS

This book is a work of argumentative thought and makes no apology to persons living or dead or to institutions living, near-dead or dead.

First published by Vijitha Yapa Publications, 2001

E-book publication by The Z-World, January 2009
www.the-zworld.com

Copyright © Carl Muller 2009

ISBN 955-8095-07-9

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, resold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior written consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser and without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise), without the prior written permission of the copyright owner of this book

FIRING AT RANDOM
SELECTED ESSAYS

CARL MULLER

WORKS BY THE AUTHOR

FICTION

The Jam Fruit Tree, 1993 [*Winner of the Gratiaen Award 1993 and also rendered in Sinhala*]

Yakada Yaka, 1995

Once Upon A Tender Time, 1995

Spit and Polish, 1998

Maudiegirl's Kitchen

HISTORICAL FICTION

Colombo - A Novel, 1996

Children of the Lion, 1997 [*Winner of the State Literary Award, 1997*]

City of the Lion

CHILDREN'S FICTION

The Python of Pura Malai and Other Stories, 1995

Ranjit Discovers Where Kandy Began, 1992 [*Also rendered in Sinhala*] [*available online at www.the-zworld.com*]

SCIENCE FICTION

Exodus 2300, 2003 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

ESSAYS

Firing At Random - Selected Essays, 2001 [*available online at www.the-zworld.com*]

SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Cemetery, 1996

Birdsong and Other Tales [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

All God's Children [*Shortlisted for the Gratiaen Award*] [*available online at www.the-zworld.com*]

Wedding Night: Stories

Read Me in Silence

The Thin Red Line

POETRY

Father Samaan and the Devil, 1990 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

Sri Lanka: A Lyric, 1992 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

Propitiations, 2004 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

A Bedlam of Persuasions [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

Clouds Over My Senses

A Return to Rhyme and Other Lines

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

Many Bulls in My China Shop
More Bulls in My China Shop
More and More Bulls in My China Shop
The Bulls are Back in My China Shop

ACADEMIC WORKS

The Elizabethans: The Origin of, and the Great Flowering of Modern English Literature [*Volume I and Volume II*]

MONOGRAPHS

Glorying in that Great Divide, 2001 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]
Conflict in Cinderella's Kitchen, 2001 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]
The Service Economy: Is there a Dangerous Dichotomisation of Wealth? 2001 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]
Productivity: The Key to Economic Domination, 2001 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]
Tourism: Aiming for that Magic Million, 2001 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]
God Men Rising: Challenging the Bedrock of Hindu Beliefs and Values, 2002 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]
Conflict Within: Challenging Sovereignty and Human Solidarity, 2002 [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

APHORISMS

Carl Muller's Mental Mayhems [*available online at the-zworld.com*]

HOBBIES

Stamp Stories of the USA, 1986

TRAVELOGUES

Indian Journeys, 2008

WORKS EDITED

Mews and Purrs [*Lancashire, England*]
The Tide Press of a Dedicated Life: A Tribute to Christine Spittel-Wilson
Rendering Unto Caesar
The Poems of Destry Muller [*Winner of the State Literary Award*]
A Rainbow Sash Adorns my Dreaming Sky

FIRING AT RANDOM

*To my wife, Sortain,
– a tribute to her patience and understanding
as I spent long hours
writing, writing, writing...*

WARNING

From the author: You have now opened this book. Do not be influenced in any way by what is given in these four pages. I assure you that this book, you are about to read, is just as bad as all the others I have written before!

“Sri Lanka’s English language writers began to get recognition abroad. In the first rank of such writers is Carl Muller... Muller is a writer of serious fiction, not just a raconteur with a talent for raising belly laughs... His seriousness is shown by the fact that his writings cause offence and even enrage people, which no mere raconteur ever does... The problem is that the truth about people can cause offence... The other reason why Muller causes outrage is that he sees the truth in his own peculiar way, not quite in the way that most others see it... There is a great deal to be said in favour of that lifestyle and those values because they have led to the politics of “carnival”, the kicking out of hierarchical mania which has degraded the Sri Lankan people. Far too much crawling before our politicians has been going on. Therefore all credit to Carl Muller for speaking out for the vertical man.” – *Izeth Hussain, in the “Weekend Express”, April 10/11, 1999.*

“Carl (Muller) gave us a total lack of inhibition hitherto unknown in Sri Lankan writing and a full-blooded comic exuberance...”
