



VINTAGE

ARCHANGEL

HENRY SHUKMAN

CONTENTS

Cover

About the Book

About the Author

Also by Henry Shukman

Dedication

Title Page

I: Nights

Four A.M.

Light and Dark

Reading Chekhov

The Beggar Father

The Hotel

Love Songs

Martyrs

Household

Beach by Night

Whitstable

Boxing Day

II: Archangel

The Singer

The Tailors

Shmattas

Motherland

Shoreditch

The Maggid of Chernobyl

Shipping Out

The Train

Teplushki

Constantinople
Archangel Birches
The Maid
On Prinkipo Island
Hotel Metropole
The House
A Street in Kiev
Crossing the Bosphorus
The Docks
Reb in Flight
The Golden Dragon
Soteriology

III: Days

Mosquito
Santa Fe Trail
Sangre de Cristo
St Vincent's at Night
Spring on San Acacio
Postcards from New Mexico
The Adobero
Fireside
Snow on Cerrillos Road
Farmer's Poem
Old War
The Net
Black and White
The Pipe
Love Letters
The Long Days
Horse and Rider, by Ter Borch
The Night She Died
After the Funeral
Mother
Odyssey
Lovers

Eve
King John's Lane

Notes & Acknowledgements
Copyright

About the Book

It has been over a decade since Henry Shukman published his award-winning first collection, *In Doctor No's Garden*. Now, in his greatly anticipated second collection, he explores a little-known piece of Jewish history in a sequence of poems that forms the centre-piece of this book. In 1917 several thousand Jewish tailors were deported from London and shipped back to Archangel and the Russian Empire they had recently fled, ostensibly to fight on the Eastern Front. They arrived just as the Revolution was unfolding and the old regime was collapsing into chaos. Among them were Shukman's grandfather and great-uncle, and these poems chronicle their four-year struggle to return to their wives and children in London.

With poems on loss and mortality, on love in difficult circumstances, and on the familiar themes of childhood and family relationships, Archangel tells the stories of many journeys – from youth to maturity, from loss back into love – and the migrations of Shukman's Jewish grandparents are echoed in his own move with his wife and family from England to New Mexico. Whatever the theme, though, these are all love poems: poems lucid with intensity, bright with the longing for love – both its fleeting rapture and its slow contentment – and Archangel is a book of great reach, power and beauty.

About the Author

Henry Shukman's first poetry collection, *In Doctor No's Garden*, was a Book of the Year in the *Guardian* and *The Times* and won the Aldeburgh First Collection Prize. He was Poet in Residence at the Wordsworth Trust and currently lives in New Mexico.

Also by Henry Shukman

POETRY

In Doctor No's Garden

FICTION

Darien Dogs

Sandstorm

The Lost City

NON-FICTION

Sons of the Moon

Travels with my Trombone

Savage Pilgrims

for my father, Harold Shukman 1931-2012

ARCHANGEL

Henry Shukman

CAPE POETRY