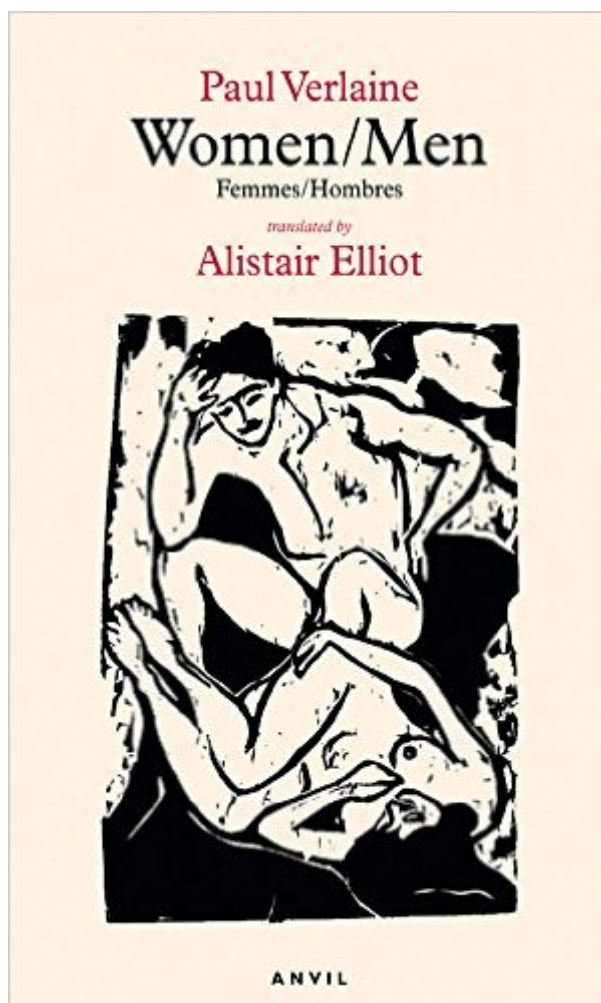


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Synopsis

Paul Verlaine (1844-1896) wrote three secret collections of verse, of which *Femmes* and *Hombres* remained almost unobtainable even in France until the 1970s. These strangely unrespectable poems celebrate the pleasures of sex, with women and men respectively, in loving detail - reversing the old view of Verlaine as a limp impressionist. Alistair Elliot's metrical translations brilliantly echo the vigour, good humour and skill of the originals, which accompany them in this bilingual edition. Alistair Elliot is a freelance poet and verse translator, born in Liverpool in 1932. *My Country*, his collected poems, came out in 1989. His *Italian Landscape Poems* and his translation of Euripides' *Medea*, made for the Almeida Theatre and Diana Rigg, appeared in 1993. He has also published as parallel texts a version of Heine's *Lazarus Poems*, a selection of French *Love Poems*, Valéry's *La Jeune Parque*, and an annotated edition of Virgil's and Dryden's *Georgics*. His selection of *Roman Food Poems*, translations from the great Roman poets about the basis of society, what we eat and how we eat it, came out in 2003. He lives in Newcastle upon Tyne.

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