

ALASTAIR REID

Oddments

Inklings

Omens

Moments

and other poems
read by the author

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Alastair Reid is a poet who believes in magic, who finds "omens in small happenings," and who keeps them alive through "a word in the right quarter." Often when meaning emerges from beneath the surface of everyday things, Mr. Reid celebrates it with a smile, for he is a poet of humor as well as sensitivity. He is captivated by the freshness of the familiar, by the music of the daily world, and by surprises on every hand. Alastair Reid is a poet whose wit, technical accomplishments, and integrity of feeling have attracted a growing body of readers through his work published in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and elsewhere. Mr. Reid's originality and unpredictability provide the basis for enjoyable reading and even more enjoyable listening when one is presented with an excellent speaker reading his own writings. Perhaps one of the best examples of Mr. Reid's humor and sensitivity is "The O-Filler" about a man who carefully and meticulously goes through the books in a library filling up the holes in the O's.

Alastair Reid was born in Scotland in 1926 and lived there until he went to sea during the war. Afterwards he came to the United States where

he taught at Sarah Lawrence College. Mr. Reid writes: "I saw the light in Scotland, and the sharp contrasts, rough and gentle, of its landscape and climate still haunt me strongly enough to keep me from returning. I left Scotland during the war, when a spell at sea in the East gave me my first taste of strangeness and anonymity. Afterwards, following an irrelevant education, I crossed to the United States out of curiosity, and lived there off and on until the same curiosity propelled me back to Europe, to Spain in particular. I have lived peripherally in France, in Morocco, in Switzerland; the list, I hope, is not complete — a kind of wistful dissatisfaction keeps me on the move. My passport says I am a writer, which has proved a useful cloak for curiosity. Poems are for me the consequences of the odd epiphanies which from time to time miraculously happen."

The poems included on this recording are selected from *PASSWORDS* © 1959/63 and *ODDMENTS, INKLINGS, OMENS, MOMENTS* © 1954/59, both books were published by Atlantic, Little, Brown and Co.

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CMS

14 WARREN ST., N.Y.C.

ALASTAIR REID READING HIS POETRY

CMS 522

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33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM

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CMS

14 WARREN ST., N.Y.C.

ALASTAIR REID READING HIS POETRY

CMS 522

SIDE 2
U4RM-1167

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