

Robert McBryde is a professional translator with a master's degree in English literature and is currently, if temporarily, living in Dijon France. A product of Toronto, Ontario, educated in both Canada and Switzerland, he taught literature and theatre at the junior college level in Quebec City for 35 years and worked as a writer/ broadcaster for CBC radio for 10 years, honing his storytelling skills through a weekly recounting of absurd yet poignant tales of everyday life, which a number of listeners urged him to publish. His first book, *My Time with You Has Been Short but Very Funny*, is a belated response to those requests and includes an array of other comical and edgy sketches besides. The book is infused with frenetic humour along with undertones of wistfulness and edgy sadness. In a series of sketches spanning two continents and seven decades, the author introduces readers to a rollicking cast of characters from everyday life, including the iconic Pesticide Pete and Barbecue Billy, as well as a series of off-kilter incidents, both chucklesome and disquieting. Robert hopes that his two sons, who figure prominently in these narratives, will not find these tales to be flat seltzer.