



# Odd Beauty, Strange Fruit

Susan Swartwout



Southern poetry with a gothic twist A Southerner by birth, Susan Swartwout's history and writing are steeped in the gothic elements of quotidian life in the Deep South, a celebration of difference and the uncommon odd beauties who embellish our plain lives. These poems explore the lives of freaks celebrities of Southern fairs sideshows such as conjoined twins Chang and Eng Bunkers married lives, the Fat Ladys work schedule, Tom Thumbs Barnum-warped ego, all parallel to the hidden desires, plots, and jealousies of the rest of us. Our exterior normality belies the internal twisted landscapes how complicity and silence echo abuse, how depression infects entire families, how a five-year-old learns to use words as weapons, how human need dispels languages boundaries. From circus oddities to real-life boogeymen, from Louisiana to a Central American village, earth has no dearth of the gothics strange fruit, illuminating the complexity of what it is to be human.

- [The Obstetric Memoirs and Contributions of James Y. Simpson Volume 1](#)
- [O Caderno Azul / the Blue Book](#)
- [O Debate Normativo Da Lingua Galega \(1980-2000\)](#)
- [Oeuvres, Volume 5...](#)
- [O Come, All Ye Faithful](#)
- [O Come, Emmanuel : Daily Prayers for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany](#)
- [Obstetrics: Normal and Problem Pregnancies Elsevier eBook on VitalSource \(Retail Access Card\)](#)
- [Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Tudor and Stuart England](#)