

Mark McWatt  
**Interiors**

McWatt's creative output demonstrates the centrality of the Guyanese interior as a place both experienced and imagined to his own sense of his identity as a writer.

Born in Guyana in 1947, McWatt spent his childhood in the Guyanese interior, where his father was a district officer. As a teenager, although he moved to Georgetown to attend school and college, he continued to arrange trips back into the interior, to which he had grown attached. He then left Guyana for Canada to study for a degree in English at the University of Toronto, and went on to complete a PhD at the University of Leeds in the UK. The influence of his various memories of Guyana's forested hinterland is clearly apparent in his published work.

The poems in *Interiors* explore themes of exile, alienation, loss and longing, associated with the poet's position as a migrant writer, but constitute only one dimension of a rich and textured collection. Offering an elaborate play on the word 'interiors', the book is divided into five parts with 'The Interior' at its heart, enclosed by two sections entitled 'Interiors of the Mind' and two sections entitled 'Interiors of the Heart'. These divisions 'suggest the three aspects of the process that produces them - thought, feelings or desire and the phenomena of landscape themselves'.

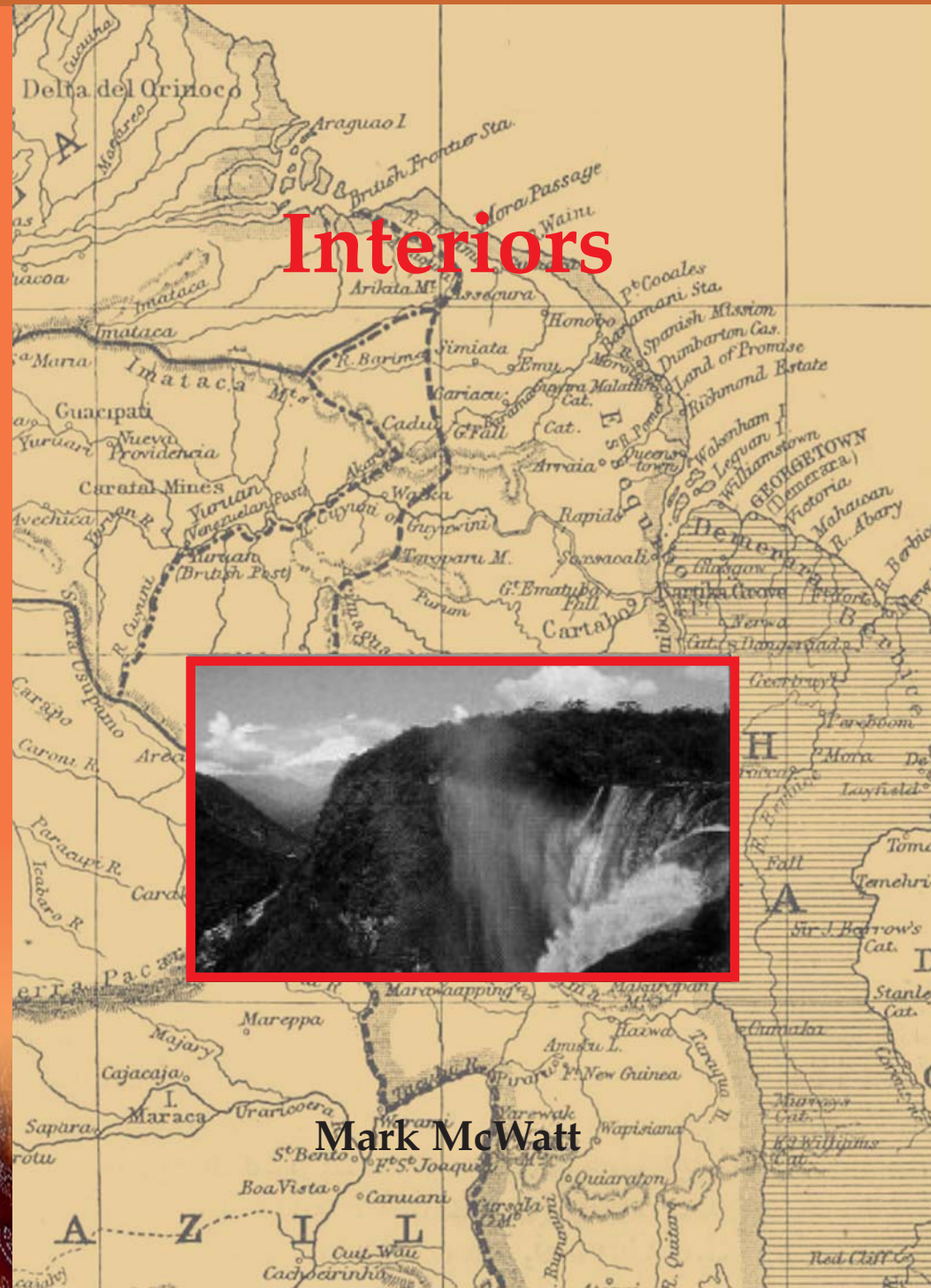
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