

# The City



Brad Ramsey

*Being a Pastiche of Book One  
of George Crabbe's The Village*

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Dedicated to Linda

*Still in our lays fond Corydons complain*

—GEORGE CRABBE, THE VILLAGE

# Preface

George Crabbe (1754-1832) was an English writer of poems and verse tales memorable for their realistic details of everyday life. Hating his mean surroundings and unsuccessful occupation as a surgeon, he abandoned both in 1780 and went to London to be a poet. In 1783 George Crabbe demonstrated his full powers of verse with *The Village*, an attempt to portray realistically the misery and degradation of rural poverty, and he made good use in that poem of his detailed observation of life in the bleak countryside from which he himself came. In writing this poem, I have sought continuity in the poetics and style of the poet, while describing my lived experience in community housing.

# Argument

The subject proposed – Remarks upon George Crabbe’s Poetry –  
Fortune Described – An Impoverished City –  
Rude Manner of Inhabitants – Ruinous effects of the Sex Trade -  
The City Life more generally considered: Evils of it – The Youthful  
Laborer – The Old Man: his soliloquy –  
The Community Access: its Inhabitants –  
The Sick Poor: their Pharmaceutical – the dying Pauper –  
The City Priest.