

Poems For A World Gone To Sh T The Amazing Power Of Poetry To Make Even The Most F Ked Up Times Feel Better

Includes 29 poems revolving around the title, selections written for oral readings with jazz accompaniment, and 13 previously published poems

After her mother died, poet Victoria Chang refused to write elegies. Rather, she distilled her grief during a feverish two weeks by writing scores of poetic obituaries for all she lost in the world. In *Obit*, Chang writes of “the way memory gets up after someone has died and starts walking.” These poems reinvent the form of newspaper obituary to both name what has died (“civility,” “language,” “the future,” “Mother’s blue dress”) and the cultural impact of death on the living. Whereas elegy attempts to immortalize the dead, an obituary expresses loss, and the love for the dead becomes a conduit for self-expression. In this unflinching and lyrical book, Chang meets her grief and creates a powerful testament for the living.

A masterfully constructed book of psycho-spiritual poems that may make you laugh; may make you cry, but you surely will not be bored – a profoundly unique creative literary experience, chronicling the last thirty years of a great Mystic's journey toward spiritual purification, illumination, resurrection, and ascension. *Rain of Grace, New & Selected Poems* is more than just another typical book of poetry; it is an extraordinary transformative symphonic poetical encounter.

How Far You Have Come is an exquisitely illustrated collection of poetry and essays from bestselling artist and writer Morgan Harper Nichols. In the midst of the hurt and the mundane, the questions and the not yet's, we can forget just how far we have come. Morgan weaves together personal reflections with her signature poems to share her journey to reclaim moments of brokenness, division, and pain and re-envision them as experiences of reconciliation, unity, and hope. The stories and illustrations in *How Far You Have Come* are organized around a familiar path Morgan has traveled all her life, along the southern border of the United States. As Morgan reflects on the moments that shaped her, she invites us to: Awaken our hearts and recognize how our own histories have made us who we are today Have a deeper understanding of pressing on and pressing in, of transformation and surrender, of meaning in the losses and wild anticipation for the splendor ahead Reclaim moments of brokenness, division, and pain and re-envision them as experiences of reconciliation, unity, and hope Become who we are in the moment you hold right now A Wall Street Journal and Publishers Weekly bestselling author, Morgan has cultivated a loyal online community, over a million Instagram followers, and an in-person following as she shares her unique message around the country. *How Far You Have Come* is an excellent gift for college and high school graduations, faith celebrations and anniversaries, life transitions, and birthdays.

The Blue Poetry Book was the third of the series of Fairy Books by Andrew Lang. This book contains 153 poems by great British and American poets such as; William Blake; Elizabeth Browning; John Bunyan; Robert Burns; Lord Byron; Thomas Campbell; Samuel Coleridge Taylor; William Cowper; Charles Lamb, and many others.

In his debut collection of poetry, Steve Coughlin examines the severity of family trauma on both personal memory and the human psyche. Written in an accessible, colloquial voice that poet J. Allyn Rosser describes as "strong, versatile, original...[and] capable of radically different tones and angles of approach," these poems move from haunted laments to playful musings as they negotiate the complexities of grief with the desire to escape into the imagination's safe refuge. Ultimately, in *ANOTHER CITY* Coughlin depicts the harsh struggles of a working class family and leaves readers to consider what healing, if any, the imagined world can offer.

Don Newman's first volume of Savannah centric poetry reflects the close personal relationship between poet and subject often found in work dedicated to a particular place. Such intimate subjectivity may seem lofty at times. But this Savannah native has a way of bringing grandiose notions of his hometown down to earth. Here, the author's regional sensibilities-together with his stretch toward the universal-offer the reader a unique perspective and a tour of Savannah unattainable during a typical day of sightseeing. While by no means a comprehensive poetic look at the city, Newman's *Little Poetry Book of Savannah* will surely augment the traveler's backpack, give visitors a distinctive literary keepsake, and make the perfect gift for those back home who would like an authentic little piece of Savannah. Meditative, descriptive, fun, quirky, and enjoyably honest, Newman bares parts of his soul in this down-to-earth, head-in-the-clouds "poetry for everyone." For a slightly smaller, less expensive Black & White Edition go here:

<https://www.createspace.com/3909405>

SIL brings to us a stylistic approach to the everyday matters of the heart by traveling through the most impactful relationships of her life. *TPTDE: The Little Pink Book* journeys through times of both brokenness and completion during feelings of being lost and being found. *TPTDE* includes rhythmic poetry, personalized messages and letters from SIL, and a Q&A section for reflection and journaling.

The US edition of the bestselling *The Poetry Pharmacy* A beautiful collection of curated poems each individually selected to provide hope, comfort, and inspiration—for all of life's most difficult moments Sometimes only a poem will do. These poetic prescriptions and wise words of advice are tailored to those moments in life when we need them most, from general glumness to news overload, and from infatuation to losing the spark. Whatever you're facing, there is a poem in these pages that will do the trick. This pocket-size companion presents the most essential fixes in William Sieghart's poetic dispensary—those that, again and again, have shown themselves to hit the spot. Whether you are suffering from loneliness, lack of courage, heartbreak, hopelessness, or even an excess of ego—or whether you are seeking hope, comfort, inspiration, or excitement—*The Poetry Remedy* will provide just the poem you need in that moment. Depression affects all of us at some point in our lives, whether it be ourselves or someone we know. The thing is, it isn't always easy to see a way out. This collection of poems and anecdotes

illustrates Hannah's journey, in the hope of leading other people out of the same dark places she found herself trapped in.

WORLD GONE MAD offers welcome respite in these strange days during a global pandemic. Elizabeth Beck brings back the beloved characters of SUMMER TOUR, this time the story told from a slightly different perspective. We follow the kids as they navigate senior year of high school, face adversities and tragedy, and survive the effects of a global pandemic, all while holding close to the phamily they've found in each other. Community has been the most important aspect of being a Phish phan in 2020, and Elizabeth Beck has captured that spirit in WORLD GONE MAD. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. --Elisa Allechant, SiriusXM Host Phish Radio

Sometimes it's hard to keep looking up at the stars when the gutter we're in seems so full of sh*t. But isn't that why we need poetry? Oscar Wilde wrote some of his best poetry when he was in prison for 'the love that dare not speak its name'. Nelson Mandela held fast to his 'unconquerable soul' on Robben Island with the help of the words a poet wrote about his battle with tuberculosis a century before. So maybe it's not inconceivable that the words in this little book could help you put some of the sh*t in perspective, get all the important bits of your life - like sleep, work, food, travel, love and learning - in some kind of balance, so you can go back to star-gazing again . . . Taking as its starting point the classic 'wheel of balance' life-coach model, this beautifully packaged collection of extracts and short poems gathers wisdom old and new in a perfect gift for anyone who needs comfort in this f**ked up world of ours. 'This is not a poetry book as you know it, this is a life raft.' Emerald Street on Poems for a World Gone to Sh*t.

This book contains poetry inspired by nature and how we humans interact with it, often to the detriment of the entire planet. There are plastics in all the oceans and the problem is only growing worse, there are unnecessary animal extinctions and a general disregard for the beautiful blue planet we are privileged to be a part of. We all need to do our bit, it may only be a drop in the ocean but without each tiny drop every ocean would be a desert. There are also poems about religion, mystic teachings, marriage and memories. We need to free ourselves from convention, if only in our minds, and allow our imaginations to run free. I hope this book inspires you to do just that.

From the author of the critically acclaimed Beyond the Mist, A collection of poems dealing with heroes and wonders of the grand type we see depicted in our favourite epics as well as inspiring everyday examples that only a few ever notice. Beauty to enjoy, courage to inspire, wisdom and folly to admire and avoid. Highlights include a heartfelt celebration of a life well lived, the story of a survivor of China's brutal one child policy, an uplifting appreciation of nature's cycles, and a grand tale of a beast that haunts the hearts of men. Awake the hero within you, and stand in awe of wonders that never cease.

"Flicker is a memoir in verse of a life well lived. Lynn Hansen rightly names the collection for her favorite bird, and for the flickers, or moments, of happenings caught in words, illustrating phases and interests of a lifetime. She carries us through childhood's joys of "forest humus, thick moss / and a bouquet of wild orchids" and woes, "the word move was profane because it frees the rat of anxiety that gnaws on the tight knot in my gut." She rejoices when she declares, "When I retire I'm going to write poetry." Then for a decade or more, that's precisely what she has done. Lynn was determined to be a scientist in a time it was regarded as impossible for women; her thirty-three-year career of teaching biological sciences at the college level has proven her right. Her keen naturalist's eye, her awareness and love of all life on this planet, and beyond, show in her poems. She even celebrates the lowly zucchini and rutabaga, though she does sigh toward the end of summer, "Zucchini manna again?" These observations are woven into the sum of time, the treasure of relationships, "just as our lives gathered out of jumble, then cemented with a matrix of mutual respect." Lynn's lone robin "lifts his bugle beak to call up morning," and so lifts us all." -Patricia Wellingham-Jones, Los Molinos, California "This collection by Lynn M. Hansen is an excellent read. While each poem is intensely personal, moving from childhood experiences to motherhood to traveling the world to growing older, Hansen generously takes us along on all her journeys, creating poems that welcome all comers. Her close observations of the natural world, of lands both distant and close to home, create a landscape at once scientifically clear and poetically imagined, and her poems about growing up and getting older and the joys and losses that come with those parts of our lives, will make readers laugh and cry, sometimes all at once. In reading this book, I grew to even more deeply appreciate our world, our Great Central Valley, and Lynn Hansen's poetry, and I suspect the same will be true for all who read this celebratory work." -Gillian Wegener, Poet Laureate of Modesto, California. "Lynn Hansen's gorgeous book of poems is a testament to a writer who loves life and fully embraces living every day. It's rare that a trained scientist will turn to poetry to reflect on the natural world and even rarer that those written poems would be this wonderfully lucid, evocative, and heartfelt. Filled with keen-eyed wonder and amusement, these poems will teach readers about life and how to live." -Sam Pierstorff, Editor, Quercus Review Press

Chocolate is a book that celebrates diversity, and beauty as they were both ordained by God. It is interesting, uplifting, encouraging, and edifying. And, it brings glory to God.

Country Poetry is a collection of poems as well as lyrics to songs that the author has written over the last 50 years. Many are written about his personal experiences and heartaches as he grew from a boy raised in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, just south of Seattle, Washington, into manhood and beyond. He writes with a deep understanding and compassion for the desperately poor and abused having been raised in a household with a violent periodic alcoholic. He also shares a deep faith which is shared in the companion volume, Gospel Poetry. It is difficult not to be touched to the heart by the tragedy and pain revealed in the stories revealed about the people in his prose.

I don't know where my hat is I can't find my lucky shoes I lost my favorite pair of socks and my backpack's missing too Last week I lost my glasses They're nowhere to be found I've looked around all over Turned my room upside down Maybe they just disappeared I've searched for long enough Maybe it's time to face the facts: I'm no good at finding stuff Wait what's this on the shelf? This looks kind of special A book of poems for coloring, hmm Where are my colored pencils? A wise person once said, "The world would be a better place if we all just took some time to color weird pictures or enjoy a poem or two." With The Schmillustrator's Coloring Book, you can do both - at the same time! Take in the joys of short poems about aliens, monsters, monkeys, old guys, a wizard, a turtle, an aspiring president, a bizarre character named Crackersauce, and many others while you bring the drawings to life with splashes of color. The Schmillustrator's Coloring Book is a collection of more than thirty goofy poems in the spirit of Shel Silverstein, accompanied by equally goofy and detailed illustrations to color. Perfect for kids and adults, boys and girls, dogs and cats, heroes and villains, and everyone in between.

"Kitty O'Meara...offers us wisdom that can help during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. She is challenging us to grow."—Deepak Chopra, MD, author, Metahuman "Kitty O'Meara is the poet laureate of the pandemic"—O, The Oprah Magazine "An eloquent, heartwarming reflection that will resonate with generations to come... encouragement for a brighter tomorrow."—Kate Winslet "And the People Stayed Home is an uplifting perspective on the resilience of the human spirit and the healing potential we have to change our world for the better." —Shelf Awareness "Images of nature healing show the author's

vision of hope for the future...The accessible prose and beautiful images make this a natural selection for young readers, but older ones may appreciate the work's deeper meaning."—Kirkus Reviews "This is a perfectly illustrated version of a poem that continues to be relevant."—School Library Journal "A stunning and peaceful offering of introspection and hope."—The Children's Book Review Ten Best Children's Books of 2020: "A calming, optimistic read, and a salve for children trying their best to navigate this time." —Smithsonian Magazine "It captured the kind of optimism people need right now."—Esquire (UK) "Thank you, Kitty O'Meara...for pointing out that at this very moment, this very day, we can seize the opportunity to restore wholeness to our world."—Sy Montgomery, bestselling author of *The Good Good Pig* and *The Soul of an Octopus* "A poem by American writer Kitty O'Meara has deservedly gone viral."—Edinburgh Evening News *And the People Stayed Home* is a beautifully produced picture book featuring Kitty O'Meara's popular, globally viral prose poem about the coronavirus pandemic, which has a hopeful and timeless message. Kitty O'Meara, author of *And the People Stayed Home*, has been called the "poet laureate of the pandemic." This illustrated children's book (ages 4-8) will also appeal to readers of all ages. O'Meara's thoughtful poem about the pandemic, quarantine, and the future suggests there is meaning to be found in our shared experience of the coronavirus and conveys an optimistic message about the possibility of profound healing for people and the planet. Her words encourage us to look within, listen deeply, and connect with ourselves and the earth in order to heal. O'Meara, a former teacher and chaplain and a spiritual director, clearly captures important aspects of the pandemic experience. Her words, written in March 2020 and shared on Facebook, immediately resonated nationally and internationally and were widely circulated on social media, covered in mainstream news media, and inspired an outpouring of creativity from musicians, dancers, artists, filmmakers, and more. The many highlights include an original composition by John Corigliano that was premiered by Renée Fleming.

"A debut poetry collection showcasing both a fierce and tender new voice."—Booklist "Elegant and playful . . . The poet invents new forms and updates classic ones."—Elle "[Fatimah] Asghar interrogates divisions along lines of nationality, age, and gender, illuminating the forces by which identity is fixed or flexible."—The New Yorker **NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY • FINALIST FOR THE LAMBDA LITERARY AWARD** an aunt teaches me how to tell an edible flower from a poisonous one. just in case, I hear her say, just in case. From a co-creator of the Emmy-nominated web series *Brown Girls* comes an imaginative, soulful debut poetry that collection captures the experiences of being a young Pakistani Muslim woman in contemporary America. Orphaned as a child, Fatimah Asghar grapples with coming of age and navigating questions of sexuality and race without the guidance of a mother or father. These poems at once bear anguish, joy, vulnerability, and compassion, while also exploring the many facets of violence: how it persists within us, how it is inherited across generations, and how it manifests itself in our relationships. In experimental forms and language both lyrical and raw, Asghar seamlessly braids together marginalized people's histories with her own understanding of identity, place, and belonging. Praise for *If They Come for Us* "In forms both traditional . . . and unorthodox . . . Asghar interrogates divisions along lines of nationality, age, and gender, illuminating the forces by which identity is fixed or flexible. Most vivid and revelatory are pieces such as 'Boy,' whose perspicacious turns and irreverent idiom conjure the rich, jagged textures of a childhood shadowed by loss."—The New Yorker "[Asghar's] debut poetry collection cemented her status as one of the city's greatest present-day poets. . . . A stunning work of art that tackles place, race, sexuality and violence. These poems—both personal and historical, both celebratory and aggrieved—are unquestionably powerful in a way that would doubtless make both Gwendolyn Brooks and Harriet Monroe proud."—Chicago Review of Books "Taut lines, vivid language, and searing images range cover to cover. . . . Inventive, sad, gripping, and beautiful."—Library Journal (starred review)

"Throughout her celebrated career, Mary Oliver has touched countless readers with her brilliantly crafted verse, expounding on her love for the physical world and the powerful bonds between all living things. Identified as "far and away, this country's best selling poet" by Dwight Garner, she now returns with a stunning and definitive collection of her writing from the last fifty years. Carefully curated, these 200 plus poems feature Oliver's work from her very first book of poetry, *No Voyage and Other Poems*, published in 1963 at the age of 28, through her most recent collection, *Felicity*, published in 2015"--

DISCOVER THE AMAZING POWER OF POETRY TO MAKE EVEN THE MOST FKED UP TIMES FEEL BETTER** A beautiful little book of short, simple, classic and contemporary poems to dip into, to make life feel better. From Shakespeare and Shelley to Lemn Sissay and Kate Tempest, poets have always been the best at showing us we're not alone, however sh*t things might seem. Funny, reflective, romantic and life-affirming - here is an anthology of poems to remind you to keep on looking at the stars: from that first 'what the f*ck' moment to empowering you to do something about this sh*t and ultimately realising that life is still beautiful after all. Rediscover old favourites and find some new treasures - you might be surprised just how much poetry can help. For fans of *The Poetry Pharmacy*, *The Reading Cure* and *The Emergency Poet*.

Faster, higher, stronger: winning words are those that inspire you on to Olympian goals. From falling in love to overcoming adversity, celebrating a new born or learning to live with dignity: here is a book to inspire and to thrill through life's most magical moments. From William Shakespeare to Carol Ann Duffy, our most popular and best loved poets and poems are gathered in one essential collection, alongside many lesser known treasures that are waiting to be discovered. These are poems that help you to see the miraculous in the commonplace and turn the everyday into the exceptional - to discover, in Kipling's words, that yours is the Earth and everything that's in it.

Pulled from a wide variety of inspirational moments, *Table Scraps* is a compilation of poems that captures the heartache, hope, and imagination of author William D. Shumate's journey through life. Whether it's the love of a beautiful woman, the grief of losing a parent, or the simple joy of walking by a sea at night, these poems speak to the common human condition and remind us that we are all in this together. With subheadings like "Heartache Hope & Understanding," "The Aftermath and Gradual Recovery," "Learning to Live Again," "Love," and "Daughters," these lyrical verses capture the ordinary moments in life, as well as the most painful ones, using rich metaphors to speak to the larger issues we all face. But despite the occasional dark subject matter, these poems are woven together with the common theme that life's trials can be overcome with faith, hope, and love. Filled with beautiful imagery, heart-wrenching honesty, and sobering insights, this collection is sure to bring a smile, a tear...and the reminder that love should be cherished every day.

Published to celebrate forty years of *City Lights* publishing, which began with the letterpress printing of this book in 1955. It was Lawrence Ferlinghetti's first book, and it has been reprinted twenty-one times, having never been out of print. The...

Seventy all-original poems from new young English poet Allen can be labeled as hilarious psychedelic existential musings, which swing violently between Orwellian nightmare and new age utopianism.

70 more all original poems by promising new English poet Richard James Allen. This is the follow up to the "punk poetry" book "The World's Gone Mad...Hasn't It?" These are thoughtful robust poems dealing with the subjects of love and landscape. His use of metaphor and mythology is reminiscent of Rilke.

Winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize * Poet Laureate of the United States * * A New York Times Notable Book of 2011 and New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice * * A New Yorker, Library Journal and Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year * New poetry by the award-winning poet Tracy K. Smith, whose "lyric brilliance and political impulses never falter" (Publishers

Weekly, starred review) You lie there kicking like a baby, waiting for God himself To lift you past the rungs of your crib. What Would your life say if it could talk? —from "No Fly Zone" With allusions to David Bowie and interplanetary travel, *Life on Mars* imagines a soundtrack for the universe to accompany the discoveries, failures, and oddities of human existence. In these brilliant new poems, Tracy K. Smith envisions a sci-fi future sucked clean of any real dangers, contemplates the dark matter that keeps people both close and distant, and revisits the kitschy concepts like "love" and "illness" now relegated to the Museum of Obsolescence. These poems reveal the realities of life lived here, on the ground, where a daughter is imprisoned in the basement by her own father, where celebrities and pop stars walk among us, and where the poet herself loses her father, one of the engineers who worked on the Hubble Space Telescope. With this remarkable third collection, Smith establishes herself among the best poets of her generation.

This book will leave you in silence. Whether it be from tears of laughter or from a single recurring thought: "WTF did I just read?", *The Worst Poetry Book Ever*, is quite literally the worst poetry book ever. I hope you like it! Or hate it!

Presents a collection of poems with themes of bereavement and celebration, as the author deals with the unexpected death of his father and the birth of his daughter.

Poems for a world gone to sh*tthe amazing power of poetry to make even the most f**ked up times feel better Quercus Publishing

Armed with a wizard's staff he cannot control and the language of poetry from a world he no longer calls his own, Professor Roy Arthre must fight the very power of darkness or see this alien world destroyed. With the beautiful rebel leader, Mithra Roshanna, and Moratha, the Lord of all Falcons, Roy works magic, science, and art together as he leads a ragtag army across a continent in hopes of defeating Mordeth, the Lord of Darkness, and his dragon ally. *The Falcon Rises* is the second book of the *Keshian Chronicles*.

Discover the beloved self-help classic featuring moving poems and insightful truisms that "is full of practical wisdom that will allow you to embrace and change your life" (John Gray, Ph.D., author of *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*). Individuals, therapy groups, twelve-step programs, and the self-help community around the world have embraced the late Portia Nelson's brilliant *There's a Hole in My Sidewalk*. Warm, wise, and funny, her seminal poem "Autobiography in Five Chapters" is a treasured and often quoted motto for anyone seeking to better themselves and their life. "Treat yourself to a special book by a special lady" (Carol Burnett) with this perfect inspirational and motivational gift.

Old West Poems depicts the lifestyle of cowboys in the American West. Cowboys blazed trails as they moved cattle to market in Kansas and Nebraska. It describes their adventures and many of the poems are historically factual.

An anthology of the best poetry ever written contains more than sixteen hundred poems, spanning more than four millennia, from ancient Sumer and Egypt to the late twentieth century "Say Not What If" is a nearly 10,000 word story written as a long rhyming poem. It is about a man on death row, and has as its theme the concept that time is our most valuable commodity. As someone once said, "waste anything but time, because we really are promised no tomorrows." This theme is explored through the life of a man who sacrifices his marriage and everything else for his career. He realizes much too late the terrible consequences of this decision, and then desperately tries to regain those lost years by making a much worse choice. The resolution of this latter choice involves an additional examination of the concepts of accountability and responsibility, redemption, and the morality of the death penalty. The story has a better than average rating of 4/5 stars on Goodreads and Amazon. There are currently fifty-six ratings and forty-one written reviews on Goodreads at <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12788920-say-not-what-if>. Another thirteen ratings and reviews are on Amazon. Reviewers have described the story as "exceptional," "amazing," "incredibly special," "borderline genius," "a lyrical masterpiece," "gripping and compelling," "thought provoking," and a "beautifully written piece of literature." Many enjoyed the story so much that they intend to share it with their family and friends. I have never seen a story written in this format. It has characters and dialogue just like a regular story, and is extremely easy to read and understand, regardless of whether you have a GED or a PHD. You should therefore not be concerned that the format makes the story hard to understand. Many reviewers had the same initial concern, but then pleasantly discovered that the story is very easy to follow. But you can further allay any such fears by reading the first few pages of the story on my website, www.ascensionenterprise.com. This story will tear at your soul. As many of the reviewers said, it only requires an hour or so to read, but will keep you thinking about its message long after you are finished. Time is quintessentially important and valuable. Who knows how much time anyone has? Would you trade ten or even five years of your life for a million dollars? The story can be purchased from many booksellers, including Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It can also be purchased for only 0.99 as an ebook for Kindle. Best wishes and good luck in all your reading endeavors.

In *Bending to Beauty*, Dian Zirilli-Mares uses powerful words and metaphors to craft poems that express universal truths. This is why, as the poet examines the loves and losses of life - she writes of our lives as well. We see clearly that we share dreams, joys, fears. Readers of a certain age will relish poems of childhood memories, as Ms. Zirilli-Mares captures a precious time and place, now long-gone. They will identify with her wry poems of shock and disbelief in growing older. But no matter the focus, the poet "pares close to the bone," exploring, yet never shrinking from, the truth. The reward, as revealed in the title poem, is a "bending to beauty" that makes one stronger. Poem after poem, *Bending to Beauty* probes the complicated, painful, and wondrous that is life - and holds it up for all to recognize.

The Book of Real Shit: A Collection of Poetry & Life Thoughts puts J. Smith's emotions and struggles on page without apology or hesitation. Her poems cover all aspects of life, from moments of utter desperation when depression is eating away at your spirit. To the moments we pray for when love is cradling our soul like a parent. Far from avoiding the unfairness of life, she embraces it, transforming it into haunting verse. For J. Smith, sensitivity was once a demise but has since become a birth. As *The Rose That Grew From Concrete*, this phoenix arises from the ashes creating a monumental moment in literature. A collection of poetry from a perspective that is unbelievably raw and relatable. For J. Smith, our mere existence in life is a mighty force that moves and shapes the psyche. Inspiration is attained daily through the basics such as selfless love and sometimes the inevitable heartbreak. Likewise, the trials of "living while black" in America. This collection, full of pride and truth, invites readers to see themselves stripped bare of social trappings-to see themselves just as they are meant to be. A dose of reality that is worth indulging into.

This book contains poetry inspired by nature and how we humans interact with it, often to the detriment of the entire planet. There are plastics in all the oceans and the problem is only growing

worse, there are unnecessary animal extinctions and a general disregard for the beautiful blue planet we are privileged to be a part of. We all need to do our bit, it may only be a drop in the ocean but without each tiny drop every ocean would be a desert. There are also poems about religion, mystic teachings, marriage and memories. We need to free ourselves from convention, if only in our minds, and allow our imaginations to run free. I hope this book inspires you to do just that.

From the winner of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Bakeless Prize comes a collection of verse set mostly in Kraków, with poems focusing on the ponies of Ocracoke Island, the clouds in the air, a boy playing a violin and much more. By the author of Cusp.

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