Of Poetry And Protest: From Emmett Till To Trayvon Martin
Synopsis

This stunning work illuminates today’s black experience through the voices of our most transformative and powerful African American poets. Included in this extraordinary volume are the poems of 43 of America’s most talented African American wordsmiths, including Pulitzer Prize–winning poets Rita Dove, Natasha Tretheway, Yusef Komunyakaa, and Tracy K. Smith, as well as the work of other luminaries such as Elizabeth Alexander, Ishmael Reed, and Sonia Sanchez. Included are poems such as “No Wound of Exit” by Patricia Smith, “We Are Not Responsible” by Harryette Mullen, and “Poem for My Father” by Quincy Troupe. Each is accompanied by a photograph of the poet along with a first-person biography. The anthology also contains personal essays on race such as “The Talk” by Jeannine Amber and works by Harry Belafonte, Amiri Baraka, and The Reverend Dr. William Barber II, architect of the Moral Mondays movement, as well as images and iconic political posters of the Black Lives Matter movement, Malcolm X, and the Black Panther Party. Taken together, Of Poetry and Protest gives voice to the current conversation about race in America while also providing historical and cultural context. It serves as an excellent introduction to African American poetry and is a must-have for every reader committed to social justice and racial harmony. 75 photographs

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Just finished reading "Of Poets and Protest: From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin", and can’t say enough good things about this book, I really enjoyed it, I was inspired and impressed with the accomplishments of these artists. I am not a lover of poetry, but this book is so much more and the
timing so fitting. Brilliantly, the book is constructed in a way that introduces you to each poet on a personal level first by a biography and beautiful photograph, followed by their poetry. Because of this I was pulled in to each poet’s world and felt a connection with each one before reading their poetry. I loved the photographs of the poets, they were very real and personable. I would have not enjoyed the book nearly as much had it just been a compilation of poems. The sprinkling of photographs of vintage posters from the civil rights movement, Black Panther movement, Malcom X and MLK enhanced the book as well. My only complaint if any was the fact that I was left wanting more, I would have enjoyed reading even more poems per person to gain a better sense of their style and message.

Moving poems from America’s best contemporary poets expressing anger, sadness and experience, supplemented with intimate portraits of the poets, moving imagery and much more.

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