

a poem for every day of the year

A poem for every day of the year is a captivating concept that invites poetry lovers, writers, and anyone seeking daily inspiration to explore and enjoy a new poem each day. Whether you're looking to start your mornings with a burst of creativity, find comfort in familiar verses, or simply appreciate the beauty of words, having a poem for every day of the year can enrich your life in countless ways. This article will delve into the benefits of embracing a daily poem routine, explore various sources to discover poetry, and offer tips on how to incorporate this practice into your everyday life.

Why Choose a Poem for Every Day of the Year?

1. Cultivating a Daily Habit of Reflection and Inspiration

Engaging with poetry daily encourages mindfulness and introspection. Each poem offers a unique perspective or emotion, prompting you to pause, reflect, and connect with your feelings and thoughts. Over time, this habit can enhance your emotional intelligence and deepen your appreciation for language and artistry.

2. Expanding Your Literary Horizons

Every day presents an opportunity to explore diverse poetic voices, styles, and themes. From classic sonnets to contemporary free verse, a daily poem broadens your understanding of poetry's rich history and its evolving forms.

3. Enhancing Creativity and Writing Skills

Reading poetry regularly can inspire your own creative endeavors. It exposes you to different imagery, metaphors, and rhythms that you can incorporate into your writing projects or personal journaling.

4. Finding Comfort and Solace

Poetry often captures universal emotions—love, loss, hope, gratitude—and can serve as a source of comfort during challenging times. Having a poem for each day ensures you have a comforting or motivating piece at your fingertips whenever needed.

How to Find a Poem for Every Day of the Year

1. Curated Poetry Collections

Many books and anthologies compile daily poems or thematic selections for each day of the year. Examples include:

- *The Daily Poem* series, which offers a poem for each day, curated by poets or literary organizations.
- Annual anthologies that feature poems tied to seasons, holidays, or themes.

2. Online Poetry Platforms and Websites

The internet hosts numerous websites dedicated to daily poetry, making it easy to access fresh verses:

- [Poetry Foundation's Poetry Daily](#)
- [The Poetry Project's Poems of the Day](#)
- [AllPoetry's Daily Poetry](#)

3. Social Media and Newsletters

Follow poets, literary organizations, and poetry communities on platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook for daily poetic inspiration. Many also offer newsletters with a poem delivered to your inbox each morning.

4. Creating Your Own Collection

Compile favorite poems into a personal journal or digital document, assigning a poem to each day. This personalized approach allows you to tailor your daily poetry experience to your preferences.

Incorporating a Daily Poem into Your Routine

1. Set a Specific Time

Dedicate a particular moment each day—morning, lunch break, or evening—to read your poem. Consistency helps establish poetry reading as a habit.

2. Reflect and Respond

Take a few minutes after reading to reflect on the poem. Consider journaling your thoughts, feelings, or even writing a response poem.

3. Share and Discuss

Share your daily poem with friends or family, or participate in online poetry communities. Engaging with others can deepen your appreciation and provide new insights.

4. Use as Inspiration for Creative Projects

Let the daily poem inspire your own creative work—whether it's writing your own poetry, drawing, or composing music.

Popular Themes and Topics in Daily Poems

1. Nature and Seasons

Poems that celebrate the changing seasons, landscapes, and natural beauty.

2. Love and Relationships

Verses exploring romantic love, friendship, and emotional connections.

3. Life and Mortality

Reflections on existence, aging, and the human condition.

4. Hope and Resilience

Poetry that inspires perseverance and optimism amid adversity.

5. Spirituality and Inner Peace

Verses that explore faith, meditation, and inner tranquility.

Benefits of a Year-Round Poetry Practice

1. Personal Growth

Daily engagement with poetry can foster self-awareness, empathy, and emotional resilience.

2. Educational Value

Students and educators can use daily poems as teaching tools to improve language skills and literary analysis.

3. Connection to Cultural Heritage

Exploring poetry from different cultures and eras enriches understanding and appreciation of diverse perspectives.

4. Mental Wellness

Poetry has been shown to reduce stress and promote mental well-being through its calming rhythm and meaningful content.

Creating Your Own "Poem for Every Day of the Year" Collection

1. Curate a Diverse Selection

Include poems from various poets, genres, and cultures to keep your collection vibrant and enriching.

2. Organize by Theme or Season

Arrange your poems thematically or chronologically to deepen your engagement and understanding.

3. Keep Your Collection Accessible

Use a journal, digital app, or online platform to easily access and update your daily poems.

4. Make it Interactive

Annotate poems with your thoughts or questions, or create a space for writing your own poetry inspired by each day's verse.

Conclusion

Embracing a poem for every day of the year is a rewarding journey that nurtures your mind, soul, and creativity. Whether you choose from curated collections, online resources, or your own personalized anthology, daily poetry can transform ordinary days into moments of reflection, inspiration, and connection. Start today by selecting your first poem, and let the rhythm of words guide you through the year with beauty, insight, and wonder.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the concept behind 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year'?

'A Poem for Every Day of the Year' is a collection that features a different poem for each day of the year, celebrating diverse voices, themes, and poetic styles to inspire daily reflection and appreciation for poetry.

Who is the creator of 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year'?

The collection was curated and compiled by Allie Esiri, who selected poems from a wide range of poets to offer a poem for each day of the year.

How can I use 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year' in my daily routine?

You can read the designated poem each morning to start your day with inspiration, reflection, or mindfulness, or use it as a prompt for journaling or discussion.

Are the poems in 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year'

suitable for all ages?

Yes, the collection features poems that are appropriate for a broad audience, including children, teens, and adults, often with selections that can be appreciated at different levels.

Does 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year' include contemporary poets?

Yes, the collection features a mix of classic and contemporary poets, providing a diverse range of voices and styles.

Can I find digital or audiobook versions of 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year'?

Yes, the collection is available in various formats, including print, e-book, and audiobook, making it accessible for different preferences.

What are some benefits of reading a poem daily from this collection?

Reading a daily poem can enhance your emotional well-being, improve your understanding of poetic forms, inspire creativity, and foster a daily habit of reflection.

Is 'A Poem for Every Day of the Year' suitable as a gift?

Absolutely, it makes a thoughtful gift for poetry lovers, students, or anyone interested in daily inspiration and literary exploration.

Additional Resources

A poem for every day of the year is an ambitious and inspiring literary project that aims to celebrate the richness, diversity, and enduring power of poetry. Whether you're a seasoned poetry enthusiast or a curious newcomer, this collection offers a unique opportunity to engage with poetic voices from different eras, cultures, and styles, all curated to provide a poem for each calendar day. In this review, we will explore the concept, structure, benefits, and potential drawbacks of this extensive anthology, providing a comprehensive overview for anyone considering exploring or even creating such a collection.

The Concept and Vision Behind "A Poem for Every Day of the Year"

Origins and Inspiration

The idea of dedicating a poem to each day of the year taps into the timeless appeal of daily reflection, mindfulness, and the transformative power of poetry. Inspired by calendars of daily quotes or affirmations, this collection elevates the concept by focusing on poetic expression, which often encapsulates complex human emotions and universal truths in a condensed, evocative form.

Purpose and Goals

The primary aim is to encourage daily engagement with poetry, fostering a habit of reflection, inspiration, and learning. It seeks to:

- Introduce readers to diverse poetic voices
- Highlight various themes such as love, nature, mortality, hope, and resilience
- Provide a cultural and historical tapestry of poetic traditions
- Serve as a daily muse or meditation tool

Structure and Content

Selection Criteria

The collection typically gathers poems from classical giants like William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, and Rainer Maria Rilke, alongside contemporary poets such as Ocean Vuong, Tracy K. Smith, or Amanda Gorman. The selection process often emphasizes:

- Thematic variety
- Cultural diversity
- Accessibility for a broad audience
- Literary significance and quality

Organization

Most editions are arranged chronologically or thematically, with each day featuring:

- A specific poem
- Contextual notes or brief introductions
- Occasionally, supplementary reflections or prompts

Features

- Daily Poem: The core feature, offering a standalone poetic piece
- Annotations: Explanations or insights into the poem's background or meaning
- Thematic Groupings: Sometimes poems are grouped by themes like seasons, emotions, or historic events
- Supplementary Content: Additional quotes, prompts for reflection, or suggested reading lists

Pros and Benefits of a Poem for Every Day of the Year

Encourages Daily Engagement with Poetry

One of the most significant advantages is fostering a consistent poetry-reading habit. Engaging with a new poem each day helps in:

- Cultivating mindfulness
- Developing an appreciation for poetic craft
- Building a broader literary palette

Educational Value

For students, educators, and lifelong learners, the collection serves as an invaluable resource:

- Exposure to diverse poetic forms and styles
- Contextual understanding of different poetic eras and movements
- Inspiration for creative writing and analysis

Emotional and Psychological Benefits

Poetry has long been recognized for its therapeutic qualities. Daily exposure can:

- Promote reflection and emotional processing
- Offer comfort during difficult times
- Inspire hope, resilience, and perspective

Cultural and Historical Awareness

With poems from various cultures and periods, readers gain:

- Insights into different societies and histories
- Appreciation for global poetic traditions
- A broader understanding of human experiences across time and space

Convenience and Accessibility

Having a poem for each day makes it an easy-to-use resource:

- Ideal for daily routines, meditation, or journaling
- Suitable for quick reading or in-depth analysis
- Often available in multiple formats: print, digital, or audiobook

Potential Drawbacks and Limitations

Overwhelming Volume

A collection spanning 365 poems can seem daunting, especially for casual readers or those new to poetry. This can lead to:

- Skipping days or losing motivation
- Difficulty in engaging deeply with each poem

Quality Variability

Curated anthologies may sometimes include poems of varying quality or relevance, which could affect the overall experience:

- Some poems may feel dated or inaccessible
- Cultural or thematic gaps might exist

Contextual Dependence

Without sufficient background, some poems may lose meaning or impact:

- Readers unfamiliar with certain references or historical contexts might miss nuances
- Supplemental notes help but may not always bridge knowledge gaps

Limited Personalization

While curated collections aim for diversity, they may not always reflect individual preferences or particular interests, such as specific cultural backgrounds or poetic styles.

Features and Variations in Different Editions

Digital vs. Print

- Digital editions often include interactive features like audio recitations, hyperlinks to related content, or customizable reading plans.

- Print editions provide a tactile experience, often with beautiful illustrations or artistic layouts.

Companion Resources

Some collections are accompanied by:

- Anthologies of essays or poet biographies
- Journaling prompts
- Guided meditation exercises based on the poems

Special Editions

- Themed collections focusing on particular poets, movements, or cultural traditions
- Seasonal or holiday editions highlighting relevant poems

Is It Suitable for Everyone?

While a poem for every day of the year is a compelling concept, its suitability depends on the reader's interests and goals:

Pros:

- Ideal for poetry lovers seeking daily inspiration
- Great for educators and students
- Useful as a mindfulness or wellness tool
- Suitable for gift-giving, especially for literary enthusiasts

Cons:

- Might be overwhelming for casual readers
- Some may prefer more thematic or personalized collections
- Not all poems may resonate equally with every individual

Conclusion: A Valuable Literary Companion

A poem for every day of the year stands as a testament to the enduring relevance of poetry in our daily lives. Its capacity to inspire, educate, and comfort makes it a valuable resource for a wide audience. While it may present challenges related to volume and variability, the benefits—ranging from cultural exposure to emotional well-being—far outweigh these limitations. Whether used as a daily ritual, a teaching aid, or a gift, such a collection enriches our understanding of the poetic art form and encourages us to find beauty and meaning in everyday moments.

In a world often dominated by fleeting news and digital distraction, turning to a poem each day offers a timeless sanctuary—a space to pause, reflect, and

reconnect with the depths of human experience through the power of words.

A Poem For Every Day Of The Year

a poem for every day of the year: A Poem for Every Winter Day Allie Esiri, 2020 Within the pages of Allie Esiri's gorgeous poetry collection, A Poem for Every Winter Day, you will find verse that will transport you to sparkling winter scenes, taking you from Christmas, to New Years Eve and the joys of Valentines Day. The poems are selected from Allie Esiri's bestselling poetry anthologies A Poem for Every Day of the Year and A Poem for Every Night of the Year. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, this book dazzles with an array of familiar favourites and remarkable new discoveries. These seasonal poems - together with introductory paragraphs - have a link to the date on which they appear. Includes poems by Mary Oliver, Edgar Allan Poe, Thomas Hardy, E. E. Cummings and Robert Burns who sit alongside Benjamin Zephaniah, Wendy Cope, Roger McGough and Jackie Kay. This soul-enhancing book will keep you company for every day of winter. Enjoy more seasonal poetry collections with A Poem for Every Spring Day and A Poem for Every Autumn Day.

a poem for every day of the year: A Poem for Every Autumn Day Allie Esiri, 2025-08-21 Within the pages of Allie Esiri's gorgeous poetry collection, A Poem for Every Autumn Day you will find verse that will transport you to vibrant autumnal scenes, from harvest festival to Remembrance Day. The poems are selected from Allie Esiri's bestselling poetry anthologies A Poem for Every Day of the Year and A Poem for Every Night of the Year. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, this book dazzles with an array of familiar favourites and remarkable new discoveries. These seasonal poems - together with introductory paragraphs - have a link to the date on which they appear. Includes poems by Robert Louis Stevenson, John Betjeman, Amy Lowell, Paul Laurence Dunbar, William Shakespeare and Christina Rossetti who sit alongside Seamus Heaney, John Agard, Simon Armitage, Patience Agbabi and Imtiaz Dharker. This soul-enhancing book will keep you company for every day of Autumn. Enjoy more seasonal poetry collections with A Poem for Every Summer Day, A Poem for Every Spring Day and A Poem for Every Winter Day.

a poem for every day of the year: A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year Jane McMorland Hunter, 2020-11-27 365 poems celebrating nature and the changing seasons. This is the perfect bedside companion for any nature or poetry fan, featuring famous odes from big-name poets alongside unsung poems from less-well-known writers. Each poem is chosen to chime with the natural world through the seasons. Spring is a time of hope, a season of new life with William Wordsworth's daffodils, John Clare's lambs and Christina Rossetti's birdsong. Summer shifts into a time of leisure with long idyllic holidays in the countryside. According to Henry James, the two most beautiful words in the English language were 'summer afternoon', a sentiment echoed by Edward Thomas and Emily Dickinson. John Keats, William Blake and W. H. Auden are the poets we associate with autumn and this is possibly the most poetic season. The natural world, and the human one, hold onto the last lingering memories of summer before they turn to face the oncoming hardships of winter. Amy Lowell and George Meredith perfectly frame this time of year with their silver-fringed leaves and crimson berries. Winter can be savoured in poetry, rather than endured; bleak grey days are transformed into a world of glittering frost and snow-blanketed landscapes. Even in the darkest days life continues and soon we can turn our attention to the rebirth of spring. A wonderful collection of poems that help mark the daily turn of the seasons and all the rituals marking the significant moments of the year, from Candlemas to Christmas.

a poem for every day of the year: Friends: A Poem for Every Day of the Year Jane McMorland Hunter, 2019-10-10 365 poems celebrating friendship, love and constancy. This wonderful collection of poems celebrates friendship every day of the year. There are poems on the joys of companionship, encouragement, consolation, humour and love, making this a perfect gift for friends, family and

partners. Poems featured include Emily Bronte's 'Love and Friendship' and Stevie Smith's 'Pleasures of friendship', as well as writings from Keats, Norman MacCaig, Waldo Emerson and Amy Lowell. Some of the most beautiful poems ever written are collected here to give us insight into the important things in life.

a poem for every day of the year: A Poem for Every Day of the Year Allie Esiri, 2017 A Poem For Every Day of the Year is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share on every day of the year. Reflecting the changing seasons and linking to events on key dates - funny for April Fool's Day, festive for Christmas - these poems are thoughtful, inspiring, humbling, informative, quiet, loud, small, epic, peaceful, energetic, upbeat, motivating, and empowering! Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, it is bursting at the seams with familiar favourites and exciting new discoveries. T.S.Eliot, John Betjeman, Lewis Carroll, William Shakespeare and Christina Rossetti sit alongside Seamus Heaney, Ted Hughes, Carol Ann Duffy, and Kae Tempest. This warm and soulful book is the perfect gift that will last the whole year, with a little bit of magic to read every day.

a poem for every day of the year: A Poem for Every Night of the Year Allie Esiri, 2016-08-30 A Poem For Every Night of the Year is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share for every night of the year. The poems - together with introductory paragraphs - have a link to the date on which they appear. Shakespeare celebrates midsummer night, Maya Angelou International Women's Day and Lewis Carroll April Fool's day. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, it contains a full spectrum of poetry from familiar favourites to exciting contemporary voices. Alfred, Lord Tennyson, W. B. Yeats, A. A. Milne and Christina Rossetti sit alongside Roger McGough, Carol Ann Duffy and Benjamin Zephaniah. This soul-enhancing book is the perfect gift that will last the whole year, with a little bit of magic to read every evening.

a poem for every day of the year: A Poet for Every Day of the Year Allie Esiri, 2021-12-14 Allie Esiri's beautiful gift anthology, A Poet for Every Day of the Year, is the perfect introduction to 366 of the world's greatest ever verse writers. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, it is bursting at the seams with familiar favourites and exciting new discoveries. Shakespeare, William Wordsworth, Christina Rossetti and Emily Bronte sit alongside Roger McGough, Wendy Cope, Imtiaz Dharker, Leonard Cohen, Sylvia Plath and Ocean Vuong. Each of the 366 poems features a small introduction that gives a sense of who the writer was, and not just the greatness of their work. Some offer insightful biographical details or key historical context, while others may provide quirky, humorous anecdotes. The day-to-day format of the anthology invites readers to make poetry a part of their daily routine, and makes sure that they discover something inspirational, life affirming, provocative, moving or entertaining each and every day.

a poem for every day of the year: A Poem for Every Spring Day Allie Esiri, 2025-02-20 Within the pages of Allie Esiri's gorgeous poetry collection, A Poem for Every Spring Day, you will find verse that will transport you to vivid spring-time scenes, taking you from the first sighting of blossoms to Easter. The poems are selected from Allie Esiri's bestselling poetry anthologies A Poem for Every Day of the Year and A Poem for Every Night of the Year. Perfect for reading aloud and sharing with all the family, this book dazzles with an array of familiar favourites and remarkable new discoveries. These seasonal poems - together with introductory paragraphs - have a link to the date on which they appear. Includes poems by William Wordsworth, Christina Rossetti, John Donne and Emily Dickinson who sit alongside Ted Hughes, John Agard, Maya Angelou, Wendy Cope, John Cooper Clarke and Carol Ann Duffy. This soul-enhancing book will keep you company for every day and night of the Spring. Enjoy more seasonal poetry collections with A Poem for Every Summer Day and A Poem for Every Autumn Day.

a poem for every day of the year: Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year, 2020-11-24 Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year is not just for Christmas, but for all time. —Helena Bonham Carter A magnificent collection of 365 passages from Shakespeare's works, for the Shakespeare scholar and neophyte alike. Make Shakespeare a part of your daily routine with Shakespeare for

Every Day of the Year, a yearlong collection of passages from Shakespeare's greatest works. Drawing from the full spectrum of plays and sonnets to mark each day of the year, whether it's a scene from Hamlet to celebrate Christmas or a Sonnet in June to help you enjoy a summer's day. There are also passages to mark important days in the Shakespeare calendar, both from his own life and from his plays: You'll read a pivotal speech from Julius Caesar on the Ides of March and celebrate Valentine's day with a sonnet. Every passage is accompanied by an enlightening note to teach you its significance and help you better appreciate the timelessness and poetry of Shakespeare's words. Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year will give you a thoughtful way reflect on each day, all while giving you a deeper appreciation for the most famous writer in the English language.

a poem for every day of the year: Daily Song: a Poem for Every Day in the Year , 1908

a poem for every day of the year: The Poetry of Everyday Life Steve Zeitlin, 2016-09-02

This is a book of encounters. Part memoir, part essay, and partly a guide to maximizing your capacity for fulfillment and expression, *The Poetry of Everyday Life* taps into the artistic side of what we often take for granted: the stories we tell, the people we love, the metaphors used by scientists, even our sex lives. A folklorist, writer, and cultural activist, Steve Zeitlin explores how poems serve us in daily life and how they are used in times of personal and national crisis. In the first book to bring together the perspectives of folklore and creative writing, Zeitlin explores meaning and experience, covering topics ranging from poetry in the life cycle to the contemporary uses of ancient myths. This convergence of poetry and folklore, he suggests, gives birth to something new: a new way of seeing ourselves, and a new way of being in the world. Written with humor and insight, the book introduces readers to the many eccentric and visionary characters Zeitlin has met in his career as a folklorist. Covering topics from Ping-Pong to cave paintings, from family poetry nights to delectable dishes at his favorite ethnic restaurants, *The Poetry of Everyday Life* will inspire readers to expand their consciousness of the beauty that resides in everyday things and to use creative expression to engage and animate that beauty toward living a more fulfilling awakened life, full of laughter. To live a creative life is the best way to engage with the beauty of the everyday. Visit the author's website for *The Poetry of Everyday Life* at <http://citylore.org/the-poetry-of-everyday-life/>.

a poem for every day of the year: The Bloomsbury Handbook of Contemporary American Poetry Craig Svonkin, Steven Gould Axelrod, 2023-01-12 With chapters written by leading scholars such as Steven Gould Axelrod, Cary Nelson, and Marjorie Perloff, this comprehensive Handbook explores the full range and diversity of poetry and criticism in 21st-century America. The *Bloomsbury Handbook of Contemporary American Poetry* covers such topics as: · Major histories and genealogies of post-war poetry – from the language poets and the Black Arts Movement to New York school and the Beats · Poetry, identity and community – from African American, Chicana/o and Native American poetry to Queer verse and the poetics of disability · Key genres and forms – including digital, visual, documentary and children's poetry · Central critical themes – economics, publishing, popular culture, ecopoetics, translation and biography The book also includes an interview section in which major contemporary poets such as Rae Armantrout, and Claudia Rankine reflect on the craft and value of poetry today.

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a poem for every day of the year: 365 Poems for Life Allie Esiri, 2024-01-09 Discover the comfort of poetry with *365 Poems for Life*, an uplifting collection from curator Allie Esiri. This nourishing poem-a-day collection offers readers a brief moment of escape from daily life through some of the warmest words in the English language. Whether you're searching for wisdom or looking to boost your wellbeing, dip into this anthology to share with others or enjoy a quiet moment of calm every day of the year. Explore a wide range of poets, including Ocean Vuong, Maya Angelou, Kae Tempest, Raymond Antrobus, Carol Ann Duffy and many more. The perfect gift for poetry lovers

and newbies alike, this beautiful anthology brings a moment of solace every day of the year.

a poem for every day of the year: Morning Thoughts for Every Day in the Year James Russell Miller, 1907

a poem for every day of the year: *The Swelling Year: Poems for Holy and Ordinary Days* Matthew Pullar, 2019-07-26 A cycle of poems for all of life's seasons - moving through the seasons of the church year, from the expectancy of Advent through to the start of the next year. These poems take the reader on a journey to find where the holy meets the everyday in our lives.

a poem for every day of the year: Every Day in the Year James Lauren Ford, Mary K. Ford, 1902

a poem for every day of the year: The Collected Poems of Kenneth Koch Kenneth Koch, 2012-07-25 Kenneth Koch has been called "one of our greatest poets" by John Ashbery, and "a national treasure" in the 2000 National Book Award Finalist Citation. Now, for the first time, all of the poems in his ten collections—from Sun Out, poems of the 1950s, to Thank You, published in 1962, to A Possible World, published in 2002, the year of the poet's death—are gathered in one volume. Celebrating the pleasures of friendship, art, and love, the poetry of Kenneth Koch has been dazzling readers for fifty years. Charter member—along with Frank O'Hara, John Ashbery, and James Schuyler—of the New York School of poets, avant-garde playwright and fiction writer, pioneer teacher of writing to children, Koch gave us some of the most exciting and aesthetically daring poems of his generation. These poems take sensuous delight in the life of the mind and the heart, often at the same time: "O what a physical effect it has on me / To dive forever into the light blue sea / Of your acquaintance!" ("In Love with You"). Here is Koch's early work: love poems like "The Circus" and "To Marina" and such well-remembered comic masterpieces as "Fresh Air," "Some General Instructions," and "The Boiling Water" ("A serious moment for the water is when it boils"). And here are the brilliant later poems—"One Train May Hide Another," the deliciously autobiographical address in New Addresses, and the stately elegy "Bel Canto"—poems that, beneath a surface of lightness and wit, speak with passion, depth, and seriousness to all the most important moments in one's existence. Charles Simic wrote in The New York Review of Books that, for Koch, poetry "has to be constantly saved from itself. The idea is to do something with language that has never been done before." In the ten exuberant, hilarious, and heartbreaking books of poems collected here, Kenneth Koch does exactly that.

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