



Selected Poems

By Lorna Goodison

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A selection of poems by Lorna Goodison, who in 2017 was named Poet Laureate of Jamaica.

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Selected Poems By Lorna Goodison Bibliography

- Rank: #371742 in Books
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- 152 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Though this acclaimed Jamaican poet spent a good part of her life in the U.S., this is the first time her work has been available here. She makes it abundantly clear that her "roots are african," and she might best be described as a cultural feminist: "We are the women / with thread bags / anchored deep in our bosoms / containing blood agreements / silver coins and cloves of garlic . . ." The poems' speakers continually seek out nature's power: birds are "the soul's symbol"; "Asi itra is not sure / I deserve to have / close contact with her / because she is star / and I'm only me." From its opening pages, we see the poet's obsession with naming--whether in the names of cities where slaves have taken root or in three poems that attempt to find names for God. Peace, both inner- and outer-directed, is a constant theme as well. There are poems for Rosa Parks and Winnie Mandela, but as the volume progresses, the concerns grow increasingly spiritual and less directly political. Goodison's use of dialect (especially in the early poems) might be a bit difficult for readers unfamiliar with the culture, but her strong sense of rhythm helps carry her message.

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Review

"Goodison shares with Derek Walcott a heritage that is both African and European. But she writes from a different perspective. As an English-speaking poet, she writes within that literary tradition, but she also writes with a perspective and sense of place that come exclusively from being a black Jamaican woman, and she incorporates her African heritage with confidence and conviction. She is a writer of rare gifts who richly deserves wider attention."

- J. Edward Chamberlain, University of Toronto

"The evocative power of Lorna Goodison's poetry derives its urgency and appeal from the heart-and-mind concerns she has for language, history, racial identity, and gender... [a] bonanza of poignant poems about the lives of women and the familial supremacy of mothers."

- World Literature Today

From the Back Cover

'This collection lures readers in the powerful visionary world of Goodison's poetry...Goodison brings to the surface of Caribbean consciousness the submerged history of the region. She affirms the beauty and strength of the Caribbean and its people.' - Latin American Literature and Arts.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sherman Etheridge:

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publication?

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