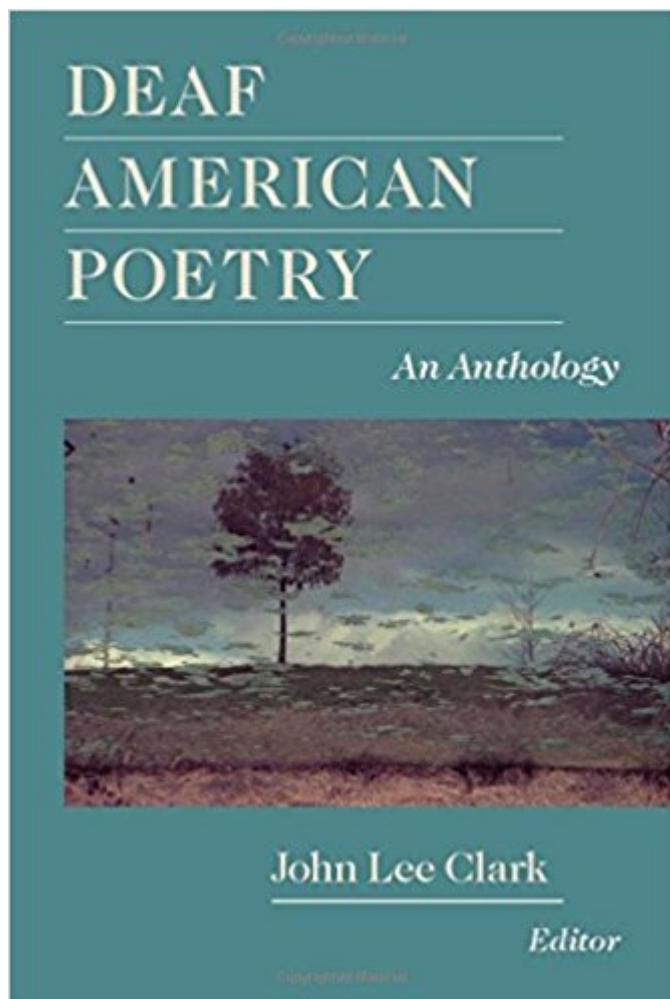


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Deaf American Poetry: An Anthology



Synopsis

â œThe Deaf poet is no oxymoron,â • declares editor John Lee Clark in his introduction to *Deaf American Poetry: An Anthology*. The 95 poems by 35 Deaf American poets in this volume more than confirm his point. From James Nackâ ™s early metered narrative poem â œThe Minstrel Boyâ • to the free association of Kristi Merriweatherâ ™s contemporary â œIt Was His Movinâ ™ Hands Be Tellinâ ™ Me,â • these Deaf poets display mastery of all forms prevalent during the past two centuries. Beyond that, E. Lynn Jacobowitzâ ™s â œIn Memoriam: Stephen Michael Ryanâ • exemplifies a form unique to Deaf American poets, the transliteration of verse originally created in American Sign Language. This anthology showcases for the first time the best works of Deaf poets throughout the nationâ ™s history â ” John R. Burnet, Laura C. Redden, George M. Teegarden, Agatha Tiegel Hanson, Loy E. Golladay, Robert F. Panara, Mervin D. Garretson, Clayton Valli, Willy Conley, Raymond Luczak, Christopher Jon Heuer, Pamela Wright-Meinhardt, and many others. Each of their poems reflects the sensibilities of their times, and the progression of their work marks the changes that deaf Americans have witnessed through the years. In â œThe Muteâ ™s Lament,â • John Carlin mourns the wonderful things that he cannot hear, and looks forward to heaven where â œreplete with purest joys/My ears shall be unsealed, and I shall hear.â • In sharp contrast, Mary Toles Peet, who benefitted from being taught by Deaf teachers, wrote â œThoughts on Musicâ • with an entirely different attitude. She concludes her account of the purported beauty of music with the realization that â œthe music of my inward ear/Brings joy far more intense.â • Clark tracks these subtle shifts in awareness through telling, brief biographies of each poet. By doing so, he reveals in *Deaf American Poetry* how â œthe work of Deaf poets serves as a prism through which Deaf people can know themselves better and through which the rest of the world can see life in a new light.â •

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Customer Reviews

John Lee Clark is a poet and writer in St. Paul, MN.

This book was a great read! It arrived quickly and in perfect condition. Needed for class but would recommend it to anyone in the field: teaching ASL, interpreting, speech & language, etc.

What is the world like, completely devoid of sound? "Deaf American Poetry" is a collection of poetic work from over two hundred years of deaf American poets, with nearly one hundred pieces from thirty-five renowned poets across that period. Offering a perspective for readers that they do not commonly see and to help them empathize with the deaf throughout history, there is much for readers to enjoy and understand. "Deaf American Poetry" is a solid, commonly unheard voice in American poetry. "On My Deafness" by Howard L. Terry: "All things go well until they feel his wrath./O silence, there are marvels in thy state!/Flora may bud and bloom despite the drouth,/Impelled of God, and I, despite my fate,/Believing, yet may bloom in fairer fields./If listening inwardly to unheard sound/Is reaping all that's best, what silence yields,/Then sound deceives; truth is in silence found.

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