



Earth-Shattering Poems

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Poetry helps us across the world's narrow bridges, but when we slip, it helps us not to be afraid. Here is a collection of some of the most intense poems ever written, to guide us, to lead us, to hold on to as we fall.

Poems are earth-shattering when, as Emily Dickinson put it, "I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off." Liz Rosenberg has selected poems of passion and yearning, of birth and death that do just that: they hurt, but they also heal. For, over and over, the poets return to love, the mysterious, perhaps limitless feeling that binds us to the earth and may lead us beyond.

As Galway Kinnell tells it, "The wages of dying is love." The reward of reading great poetry is a form of love, too, and this collection is a chance to feel that, again and again.

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Earth-Shattering Poems From Brand: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR) Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1728935 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR)
- Published on: 1998-01-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.70" h x .66" w x 5.72" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 128 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up?With the poets represented here, it would have been hard to put together a less-than-stellar anthology of poems deemed "earth shattering." Each one of the selections hits upon some incident or emotion that will prompt serious thought, insight, or wonder. Forty-one poets are included, in chronological order, from the enigmatic Greek, Sappho, to contemporary poets. These poems run the emotional gamut from joy and love to sorrow and rage. Whether it be the words or rhythm, or the unique events described, each one contains some essence of "earth shattering" awareness, followed by an aftershock. Some fine examples are Langston Hughes's "Harlem," Pablo Neruda's achingly beautiful "If You Forget Me," and John Keats's examination of a "warm and capable" human hand. Other poets include William Blake, Matthew Arnold, Emily Dickinson, Greg Moglia, J.E. Wei, and Kate Schmitt. Some of the poems are more effective than others, but, then, some seem more "understandable" on the surface. Each one, however, leads readers into the wider world of poetry?whether through African-American poetry, Native American chants, a Hebrew folk song, or other forms. A well-rounded introduction that expresses the emotions of a variety of people as well as different styles of poetry throughout centuries.?Sharon Korbeck, Waupaca Area Public Library, WI

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Review

"The whole world is a very narrow bridge but the most important thing is not be afraid at all."--Hebrew Folk Song

About the Author

Liz Rosenberg is a poet, author, and professor of children's literature at SUNY Binghamton. Her *Earth-Shattering Poems* received a 1999 *Riverbank Review* Children's Book of Distinction Award. A previous poetry anthology, *The Invisible Ladder*, won the first Claudia Lewis Poetry Award from the Bank Street College of Education. Liz lives with her husband and son in Binghamton, New York.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Holly Silva:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that sometimes many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a reserve your ability to survive enhance then having chance to remain than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a new book, we give you this kind of Earth-Shattering Poems book as starter and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Shawn Martinez:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also turn into a life style. This reading addiction give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of book you read, if you want drive more knowledge just go with training books but if you want experience happy read one having theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Often the Earth-Shattering Poems is kind of reserve which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Gay Swiderski:

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Carmen Dana:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. So you know that little person including reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important and also book as to be the point. Book is important thing to include you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You get good news or update with regards to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is actually Earth-Shattering Poems.

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