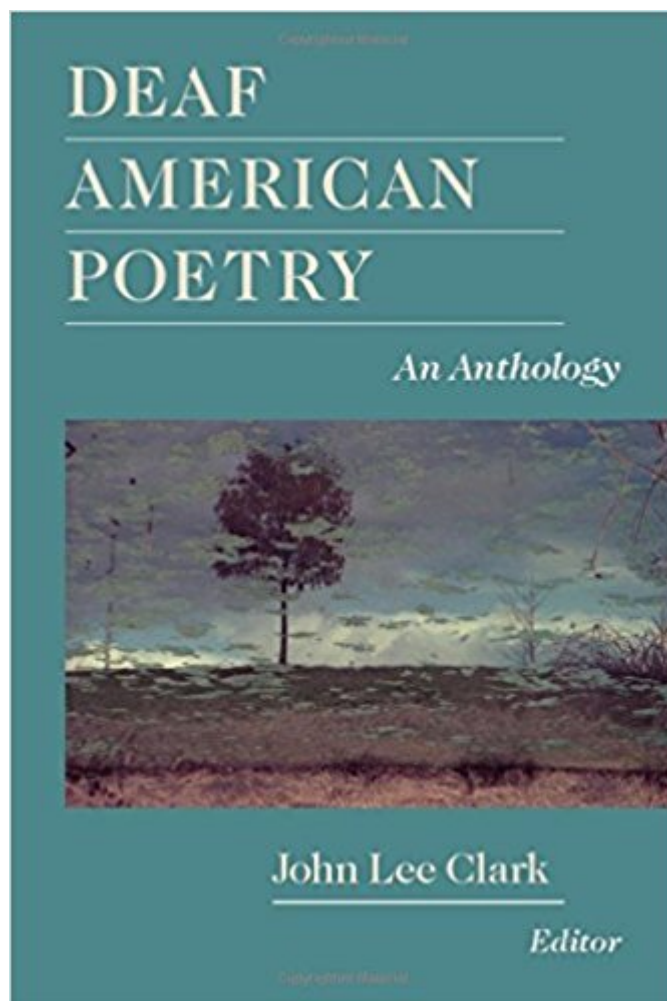


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Deaf American Poetry: An Anthology



Synopsis

“The Deaf poet is no oxymoron,” 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 Nack’s early metered narrative poem “The Minstrel Boy” to the free association of Kristi Merriweather’s contemporary “It Was His Movin’ Hands Be Tellin’ Me,” these Deaf poets display mastery of all forms prevalent during the past two centuries. Beyond that, E. Lynn Jacobowitz’s “In Memoriam: Stephen Michael Ryan” 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 nation’s history • 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 “The Mute’s Lament,” John Carlin mourns the wonderful things that he cannot hear, and looks forward to heaven where “replete with purest joys/My ears shall be unsealed, and I shall hear.” In sharp contrast, Mary Toles Peet, who benefitted from being taught by Deaf teachers, wrote “Thoughts on Music” with an entirely different attitude. She concludes her account of the purported beauty of music with the realization that “the music of my inward ear/Brings joy far more intense.” Clark tracks these subtle shifts in awareness through telling, brief biographies of each poet. By doing so, he reveals in *Deaf American Poetry* how “the 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.”

Book Information

Paperback: 280 pages

Publisher: Gallaudet University Press; 1st Edition edition (March 15, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1563684136

ISBN-13: 978-1563684135

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #880,116 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry](#) #1276 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Anthologies](#) #1501 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Anthologies](#)

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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