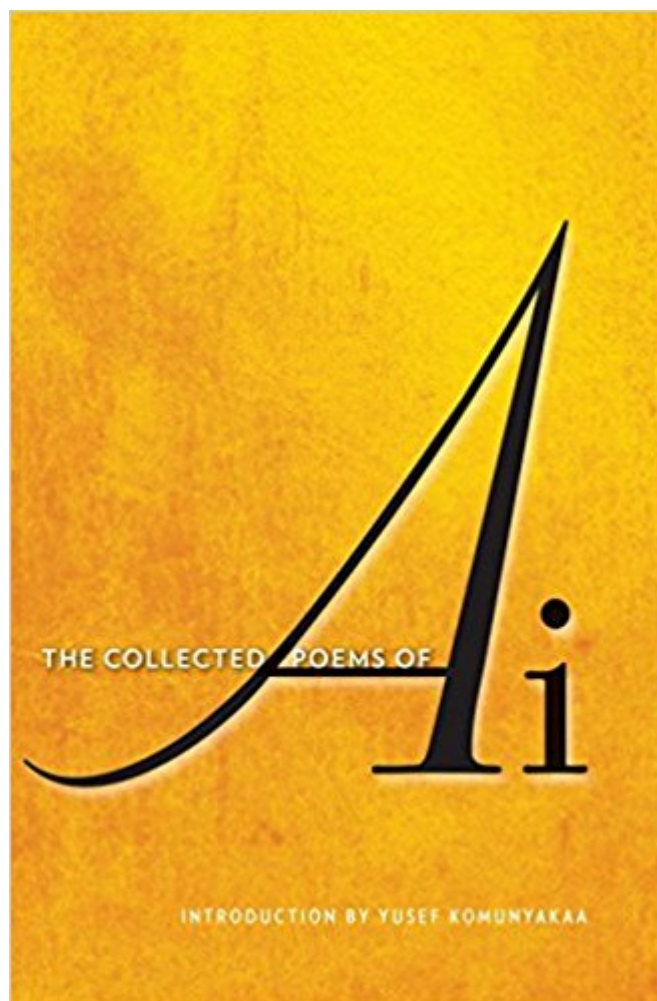


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The Collected Poems Of Ai



Synopsis

Ai is a truth teller picking her way through the burning rocks of racial and sexual lies. Joy Harjo Before her untimely death in 2010, Ai, known for her searing dramatic monologues, was hailed as “one of the most singular voices of her generation” (New York Times Book Review). Now for the first time, all eight books by this essential and uniquely American poet have been gathered in one volume. “The Cockfighter’s Daughter I found my father, face down, in his homemade chili and had to hit the bowl with a hammer to get it off, then scrape the pinto beans and chunks of ground beef off his face with a knife.”

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ai speaks in many voices, making of each poem a dramatic monologue of shocking disclosure. Earthy, furious women. Angry, wistful men. Murderers, rapists, mothers, fathers, children, witnesses, redeemers. The poor, the abused, the displaced, the endangered, the dangerous, the depraved, the compassionate. Her first book was published in 1973, and the titles of the eight collections gathered here in a raucous, confessional, anguished, and bloody chorus—Cruelty, Killing Floor, Sin, Fate, Greed, Vice, Dread, and the posthumous No Surrender—offer a key to Ai’s harrowing subjects and acute moral calculus. Could it be that Ai’s experiences as a person of complex heritage (Japanese, African American, Choctaw, Irish) inspired her to take on diverse personae? Born Florence Anthony in 1947, she changed her name to Ai, which means love in Japanese, and annealed love underpins her

empathic, emphatic poems. In his penetrating introduction, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa writes of the supreme candor and honed toughness that approach transcendence in Ai's poems, which, for all their brutal intimacy, span American history, concentrating its conflagrations like sunlight through a magnifying glass, igniting the page. --Donna Seaman

Ai (1947-2010) is the author of eight books of poetry, including the National Book Award-winning *Vice*. In 2009 she was named a United States Artist Ford Fellow. She was a professor at Oklahoma State University.

I was introduced to Ai's work 20 years ago in a writing workshop. I have some of her other books which are included in this volume and refer to them frequently when I need some inspiration or find I'm struggling for a different way of looking at things when I write both poetry and prose fiction. I find her work to be very readable and yet very intense and I am a big fan of her work. The volume itself is well done and there is something very enriching about reading them in this edition as opposed to the dogeared paperback versions I have on my shelf.

Love the anthology of Ai's collected poetry. Book came highly recommended and has not disappointed. Thank you for the quick turnaround.

The raw truth of humanity.

Exquisite narrative that informs the understanding of the poet herself and of her view of culture and history in a contemporary sense.

This book of poetry is absolutely great from start to finish. It is definitely one to have in your collection.

Thanks.

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