
Seven New Generation African Poets A Chapbook Box

Becoming Abigail

The January Children

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Earth Abides

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Your Body Is War

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African Poets A
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SOSA ISAIAS

Becoming Abigail

Peepal Tree Press

Xamissa is a book-length poem that sounds out the city of Cape Town in a joyful elegy for the city of alternate takes. Xamissa adapts the mythical name for the springs and

streams running from Table Mountain to the sea, under the city itself, since before the colonial Dutch ships came--the X of the title standing in for the multiple ways in the languages of the Cape, past and present, the reader may pronounce the first consonant. A work of documentary poetics that investigates the cost of whiteness in

South Africa, Xamissa code-switches at times into Lontara, the subversive Indonesian script that undercuts the prevalence of Dutch in the colonial archive. Through serial questions around the ethics of its address, Xamissa probes the interrelation of language, sociality, and resistance, in its bid to interrogate the archive as a draft of

the city's future.
The January Children
 Odyssey Books
Your Body Is War
 contemplates the
 psychology of the female
 human body, looking at
 the ways it exists and
 moves in the world,
 refusing to be contained
 in the face of grief and
 trauma. Bold and raw,
 Mahtem Shiferraw's
 poems explore what the
 woman's body has to do
 to survive and persevere
 in the world, especially in
 the aftermath of abuse. A
 groundbreaking
 collection, the poems in

Your Body Is War embody
 elements of conflict,
 making them
 simultaneously a place of
 destruction and of
 freedom.

Helium U of Nebraska
 Press

"This is the first book-
 length comparative study
 of literary giants Toni
 Morrison and Chinua
 Achebe"--

Earth Abides U of
 Nebraska Press

In direct narrative terms
 the poems in this
 collection relate to the
 horrors of the civil war
 that ousted the brutal

tyranny of Idi Amin in
 Uganda, a war of
 liberation that brought its
 own barbarous atrocities.
 In political terms the
 poems chart the impact of
 imperialism and neo-
 colonialism that lay
 behind those traumas in
 the life of the nation. In
 personal terms, the
 poems are framed
 between the contrary
 pulls of attachment and
 flight, exile and longing.
 At their heart is an
 unwavering curiosity
 about how people behave
 in extreme situations, and
 what this reveals about

our common human capacities to indulge grandiose visions, betray them, dissemble, seek revenge and kill.

Your Crib, My Qibla U of Nebraska Press
Previous studies of African poetry have tended to concentrate either on its political content or on its relationship to various European schools. This book examines West African poetry in English and French against the background of oral poetry in the vernacular. Do the roots of such poetry lie in Africa or in Europe? In

committing their work to writing, do poets lose more than they gain? Can the immediacy of oral performance ever be recovered? Robert Fraser's account of two centuries of West African verse examines its subjugation to a succession of international styles: from the heroic couplet to the austerity of experimental Modernism. Successive chapters take us through the Négritude movement and the emergence of anglophone free verse in the 1950s to the

rediscovery in recent years of the neglected springs of orality, which is the subject of the concluding chapter.

Sanctificum Cambridge University Press
This eight-piece boxed set, an African Poetry Book Fund (APBF) project, features the work of seven African poets, with an introduction by Kwame Dawes, APBF series editor, and Chris Abani. The boxed set is an annual project starting in 2014 to ensure the publication of seven chapbooks by African

poets through participating publishers. Publication is made possible through Slapering Hol Press, in association with APBF and the literary journal Prairie Schooner, with support from The Poetry Foundation. The chapbook contains: • Mandible by TJ Dema • The Cartographer of Water by Clifton Gachagua • Carnaval by Tsitsi Jaji • The Second Republic by Nick Makoha • Ordinary Heaven by Ladan Osman • Our Men Do Not Belong To Us by Wasan Shire • Otherwise

Everything Goes On by Len Verwey
The Kitchen-Dweller's Testimony Verso Books
 The prophetic poetry of slavery and its abolition During the pitched battle over slavery in the United States, Black writers—enslaved and free—allied themselves with the cause of abolition and used their art to advocate for emancipation and to envision the end of slavery as a world-historical moment of possibility. These Black writers borrowed from the

European tradition of Romanticism—lyric poetry, prophetic visions—to write, speak, and sing their hopes for what freedom might mean. At the same time, they voiced anxieties about the expansion of global capital and US imperial power in the aftermath of slavery. They also focused on the ramifications of slavery's sexual violence. Authors like Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, George Moses Horton, Albery Allson Whitman, and Joshua McCarter Simpson conceived the Civil War as

a revolutionary upheaval on par with Europe's stormy Age of Revolutions. The Black Romantic Revolution proposes that the Black Romantics' cultural innovations have shaped Black radical culture to this day, from the blues and hip hop to Black nationalism and Black feminism. Their expressions of love and rage, grief and determination, dreams and nightmares, still echo into our present.
Seven New Generation African Poets Button

Poetry
 On moving into a new apartment abroad in his Bavarian hometown, the narrator realises that some of his possessions and elements of his new neighbourhood open a window into a flurry of memories, serving as allegorical threads to his childhood, self-consciousness and discovery of the world. What begins as a personal narrative quickly cedes to a social archaeology, inviting the reader/listener on a homegoing journey in the

backdrop of Cameroon's tottering democratic trajectory. Modulated with poetry and music, The Radio tunes in to diaspora, home, nation, education, existence, religion as well as Mbum popular culture, showcasing creative re-appropriation and re-mixing of global trends and icons in specific communities.
City of Bones
 Northwestern University Press
 "A stellar cast of award-winning Nigerian authors . . . a must-read for crime

lovers looking for something different.”—Brittle Paper
In Akashic Books’s acclaimed series of original noir anthologies, each book comprises all new stories set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city. Now, West Africa enters the Noir Series arena, meticulously edited by one of Nigeria’s best-known authors. In Lagos Noir, the stories are set in “a city of more than 21 million and an amazing amalgam of wealth, poverty, corruption,

humor, bravery, and tragedy. Abani and a dozen other contributors tell stories that are both unique to Lagos and universal in their humanity . . . This entry stands as one of the strongest recent additions to Akashic’s popular noir series” (Publishers Weekly, starred review, pick of the week). The anthology includes stories by Chris Abani, Nnedi Okorafor, E.C. Osondu, Jude Dibia, Chika Unigwe, A. Igoni Barrett, Sarah Ladipo Manyika, Adebola Rayo, Onyinye Ihezukwu,

Uche Okonkwo, Wale Lawal, Pemi Aguda, and Leye Adenle. “The beauty of this book, which contains 13 stories from Nigerian writers, is that it serves as a travelogue, too.”—Bloomberg, “The Darkest Summer Reading List for Those Bright, Beachy Days” “With writers like Igoni Barrett, Leye Adenle, and E.C. Osondu contributing, Lagos Noir offers wildly different perspectives on both the city itself and the state of noir fiction. This book is almost like a world in itself, one that you’ll

want to dive back into and get lost in again and again.”—CrimeReads, “One of the 10 Best Crime Anthologies of 2018”

The Promise of Hope U of Nebraska Press

My Luck, a West African boy soldier who has not spoken for three years, fights in a senseless war and embarks on a terrifying yet beautiful journey to find his lost platoon.

Exiles of Eden U of Nebraska Press

A bold, mesmerizing debut collection exploring womanhood, the body,

mental illness, and what it means to move between cultures. Renowned for her storytelling and spoken-word artistry, Ama Asantewa Diaka is also an exultant, fierce, and visceral poet whose work leaves a lasting impact. Touching on themes from perceptions of beauty to the betrayals of the body, from what it means to give consent to how we grapple with demons internal and external, *Woman, Eat Me Whole* is an entirely fresh and powerful look at womanhood and

personhood in a shifting world. Moving between Ghana and the United States, Diaka probes those countries’ ever-changing cultural expectations and norms while investigating the dislocation and fragmentation of a body—and a mind—so often restless or ill at ease. Vivid and bodily while also deeply cerebral, *Woman, Eat Me Whole* is a searing debut collection from a poet with an inimitable voice and vision.

Mine Mine Mine U of

Nebraska Press
Keorapetse Kgositsile, South Africa's second poet laureate, was a political activist, teacher, and poet. He lived, wrote, and taught in the United States for a significant part of his life and collaborated with many influential and highly regarded writers, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Sterling Plump, Dudley Randall, and George Kent. This comprehensive collection of Kgositsile's new and collected works spans almost fifty years. During

his lifetime, Kgositsile dedicated the majority of his poems to people or movements, documenting the struggle against racism, Western imperialism, and racial capitalism, and celebrating human creativity, particularly music, as an inherent and essential aspect of the global liberation struggle. This collection demonstrates the commitment to equality, justice, and egalitarianism fostered by cultural workers within the mass liberation movement. As

the introduction notes, Kgositsile had an "undisputed ability to honor the truth in all its complexity, with a musicality that draws on the repository of memory and history, rebuilt through the rhythms and cadences of jazz." Addressing themes of Black solidarity, displacement, and anticolonialism, Kgositsile's prose is fiery, witty, and filled with conviction. This collection showcases a voice that wanted to change the world--and did.

In a Language That You

Know Akashic Books
 Stereomodernism and
 amplifying the Black
 Atlantic -- Sight reading:
 early Black South African
 transcriptions of freedom
 -- Négritude musicology:
 poetry, performance and
 statecraft in Senegal --
 What women want: selling
 hi-fi in consumer
 magazines and film --
 'Soul to soul': echo-
 locating histories of
 slavery and freedom from
 Ghana -- Pirate's choice:
 hacking into (post-)pan-
 African futures --
 Epilogue: Singing songs.

Keorapetse Kgositsile

U of Nebraska Press
 When No One Is Watching
 is a compilation of poems
 about love and the loss
 thereof, trauma and the
 dark reflections that come
 with it. It is a depiction of
 sides that people don't
 readily show, sides of
 vulnerability, insecurity
 and tiny amounts of hope.
 One could say it is the
 result of shedding light
 into a world of secrecy,
 escapism, an alternate
 reality belonging to an
 alternate version of an
 individual. When No One
 Is Watching is the truth in

its purest form.

Kingdom of Gravity U of
 Nebraska Press

Offers a selection of
 African poetry arranged
 by country

The Careless Seamstress

U of Nebraska Press

Winner of the Sillerman
 First Book Prize for African
 Poetry, 'Gbenga Adeoba's
 collection Exodus focuses
 on forms of migration due
 to the slave trade, war,
 natural disasters, and
 economic opportunities.
 Using the sea as a source
 of language and
 metaphor, Adeoba
 explores themes of

memory, transition, and the intersections between the historic and the imagined. With great tenderness and power his poetry of empathy searches for meaning in sharply constructed images, creating scenes of making and unmaking while he investigates experiences of exile and displacement across time and place.

Madman at Kilifi U of Nebraska Press
2018 Goodreads Choice Awards - Best Poetry Book Finalist Helium is the debut poetry collection by

internet phenom Rudy Francisco, whose work has defined poetry for a generation of new readers. Rudy's poems and quotes have been viewed and shared millions of times as he has traveled the country and the world performing for sell-out crowds. Helium is filled with work that is simultaneously personal and political, blending love poems, self-reflection, and biting cultural critique on class, race and gender into an unforgettable whole. Ultimately, Rudy's work

rises above the chaos to offer a fresh and positive perspective of shared humanity and beauty.
West African Poetry
Penguin

In the face of amnesia, how does one exist? In this poem, Hawad speaks directly to Azawad, a silent figure whose name designates a portion of Tuareg lands divided among five nation-states created in the 1960s.

When No One Is Watching U of Nebraska Press
This dazzling debut announces a not-so-new

voice: that of the spoken-word poet Tjawangwa Dema. Winner of the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, Dema's collection, *The Careless Seamstress*, evokes the national and the subjective while reemphasizing that what is personal is always political. The girls and women in these poems are not mere objects; they speak, labor, and gaze back, with difficulty and consequence. The tropes are familiar, but in their animation they question and move in unexpected

ways. The female body—as a daughter, wife, worker, cultural mutineer—moves continually across this collection, fetching water, harvesting corn, raising children, sewing, migrating, and spurning designations. Sewing is rendered subversive, the unsayable is weft into speech and those who are perhaps invisible in life reclaim their voice and leave evidence of their selves. As a consequence the body is rarely posed—it bleeds and scars; it ages; it resists

and warns. The female gaze and subsequent voices suggest a different value system that grapples with the gendering of both physical and emotional labor, often through what is done, even and especially when this goes unnoticed or unappreciated. A body of work that examines the nature of power and resistance, *The Careless Seamstress* shows both startling clarity of purpose and capaciousness of theme. Using gender and labor as their point of

departure, these poems are indebted to Dema's relationship to language, intertextuality, and narrative. It is both assured and inquiring, a quietly complex skein that takes advantage of poetry's capacity for the polyphonic.

Loving the Dying Spears
Media Press
Clifton Gachagua's collection Madman at Kilifi, winner of the

Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, concerns itself with the immediacy of cultures in flux, cybercommunication and the language of consumerism, polyglot politics and intrigue, sexual ambivalence and studied whimsy, and the mind of a sensitive, intelligent, and curious poet who stands in the midst of it all. Gachagua's is a world fully grounded

in the postmodern Kenyan cultural cauldron, a world in which people speak with "satellite mouths," with bodies that are "singing machines," and in which the most we can do is "collide against each other." Here light is graceful, and we glow like undiscovered galaxies and shifting matter. And here as well, we find new expression in a poetry that moves as we do.