

Strong Words: Modern Poets on Modern Poetry



Strong Words: Modern poets on modern poetry

by W.N. Herbert

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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What is poetry? What does it mean to be a poet in the 21st century? These are questions that have been asked for centuries, and they continue to be relevant today. In the following essays, a group of modern poets offer their own unique perspectives on these questions.

The Nature of Poetry

In her essay, "The Nature of Poetry," poet A.E. Stallings argues that poetry is "a way of seeing the world." She writes: "Poetry is not about describing the world, but about showing us the world in a new way. It is about finding the hidden connections between things, and showing us the beauty and wonder in the everyday."

Poet Billy Collins agrees with Stallings's assessment. In his essay, "On the Nature of Poetry," Collins writes: "Poetry is a way of paying attention to the world. It is a way of slowing down and really seeing what is around us."

Both Stallings and Collins emphasize the importance of observation in poetry. They believe that poets must be willing to pay attention to the world around them, and to see it with fresh eyes. This observation is essential for creating poetry that is both meaningful and moving.

The Role of the Poet

In her essay, "The Role of the Poet," poet Tracy K. Smith argues that poets have a responsibility to speak out against injustice. She writes: "Poets have a duty to bear witness to the truth. We must use our voices to speak out against injustice, and to give voice to those who are voiceless."

Poet Juan Felipe Herrera agrees with Smith. In his essay, "The Poet as Witness," Herrera writes: "Poets are witnesses to the human condition. We must bear witness to the suffering and injustice in the world, and we must use our voices to speak out against it."

Both Smith and Herrera believe that poets have a moral obligation to use their voices for good. They believe that poets must be willing to speak out against injustice, and to fight for the rights of the oppressed.

The Future of Poetry

In his essay, "The Future of Poetry," poet Kevin Young argues that poetry is more important than ever in the 21st century. He writes: "In a world that is increasingly dominated by technology, poetry is a reminder of the

importance of human connection. It is a way of expressing our emotions, our thoughts, and our dreams."

Poet Natasha Trethewey agrees with Young. In her essay, "The Future of Poetry: A Conversation," Trethewey writes: "Poetry is a powerful force for change. It can inspire us, motivate us, and help us to understand the world around us."

Both Young and Trethewey believe that poetry has a bright future. They believe that poetry is more relevant than ever in the 21st century, and that it will continue to play an important role in our lives.

The essays in this collection offer a wide range of perspectives on the nature of poetry, the role of the poet, and the future of poetry. These essays are a valuable resource for anyone interested in learning more about poetry.



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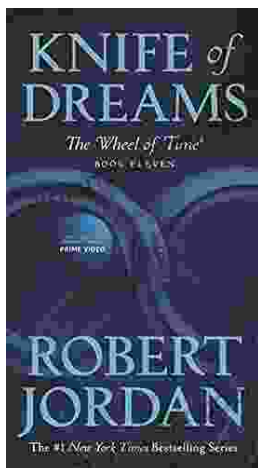
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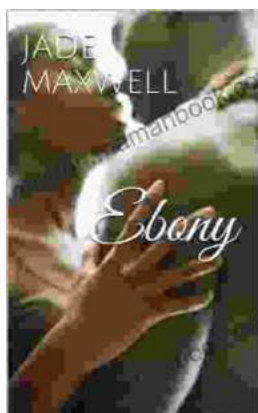
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