



Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems

Billy Collins

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

“America’s favorite poet.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

From the two-term Poet Laureate of the United States Billy Collins comes his first volume of new and selected poems in twelve years. *Aimless Love* combines fifty new poems with generous selections from his four most recent books—*Nine Horses*, *The Trouble with Poetry*, *Ballistics*, and *Horoscopes for the Dead*. Collins’s unmistakable voice, which brings together plain speech with imaginative surprise, is clearly heard on every page, reminding us how he has managed to enrich the tapestry of contemporary poetry and greatly expand its audience. His work is featured in top literary magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, and *The Atlantic*, and he sells out reading venues all across the country. Appearing regularly in *The Best American Poetry* series, his poems appeal to readers and live audiences far and wide and have been translated into more than a dozen languages. By turns playful, ironic, and serious, Collins’s poetry captures the nuances of everyday life while leading the reader into zones of inspired wonder. In the poet’s own words, he hopes that his poems “begin in Kansas and end in Oz.” Touching on the themes of love, loss, joy, and poetry itself, these poems showcase the best work of this “poet of plenitude, irony, and Augustan grace” (*The New Yorker*).

Envoy

Go, little book,
out of this house and into the world,

carriage made of paper rolling toward town
bearing a single passenger
beyond the reach of this jittery pen
and far from the desk and the nosy gooseneck lamp.

It is time to decamp,
put on a jacket and venture outside,
time to be regarded by other eyes,
bound to be held in foreign hands.

So off you go, infants of the brain,
with a wave and some bits of fatherly advice:

stay out as late as you like,
don’t bother to call or write,
and talk to as many strangers as you can.

Praise for *Aimless Love*

“[Billy Collins] is able, with precious few words, to make me cry. Or laugh out loud. He is a remarkable

artist. To have such power in such an abbreviated form is deeply inspiring.”—**J. J. Abrams**, *The New York Times Book Review*

“His work is poignant, straightforward, usually funny and imaginative, also nuanced and surprising. It bears repeated reading and reading aloud.”—*The Plain Dealer*

“Collins has earned almost rock-star status. . . . He knows how to write layered, subtly witty poems that anyone can understand and appreciate—even those who don’t normally like poetry. . . . The Collins in these pages is distinctive, evocative, and knows how to make the genre fresh and relevant.”—*The Christian Science Monitor*

“Collins’s new poems contain everything you've come to expect from a Billy Collins poem. They stand solidly on even ground, chiseled and unbreakable. Their phrasing is elegant, the humor is alive, and the speaker continues to stroll at his own pace through the plainness of American life.”—*The Daily Beast*

“[Collins’s] poetry presents simple observations, which create a shared experience between Collins and his readers, while further revealing how he takes life’s everyday humdrum experiences and makes them vibrant.”—*The Times Leader*

From the Hardcover edition.

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From reader reviews:

Anthony Parker:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the guide untitled Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

George Rodriguez:

The particular book Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research just before write this book. This specific book very easy to read you can get the point easily after looking over this book.

Karolyn Kaufman:

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Brenda Luna:

In this particular era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple way to have that. What you are related is just spending your time very little but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of the books in the top list in your reading list will be Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking way up and review this book you can get many advantages.

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