



Dated Emcees

Chinaka Hodge

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Dated Emcees

Chinaka Hodge

Dated Emcees Chinaka Hodge

Chinaka Hodge came of age along with hip-hop—and its influence on her suitors became inextricable from their personal interactions. Form blends with content in *Dated Emcees* as she examines her love life through the lens of hip-hop's best known orators, characters, archetypes and songs, creating a new and inventive narrative about the music that shaped the craggy heart of a young woman poet, just as it also changed the global landscape of pop.

Praise for *Dated Emcees*:

"In the old tellings hip-hop was a woman, a certain kind—one needing, even begging to be saved. In *Dated Emcees*, Chinaka Hodge gives her a voice and she tells of her loves and desires, her traumas and pains in words as hard, as lit, as loving, cunning, cutting, ecstatic, as tender and devastating as her big world requires. This is poetry that, in its infinite power and intimate grace, will still turn in your mind long after the music is over."—**Jeff Chang**, author of *Who We Be: A Cultural History of Race in Post-Civil Rights America*

"Hodge writes with an unpredictable, rare honesty. This collection quietly and simply illustrates love in a complicated world."—**Donald Glover AKA Childish Gambino**

"This is an absolute powerhouse of a book, and a new pinnacle for Chinaka Hodge. There's enough beauty and heartbreak and melancholy and humor and sorrow in here for three collections, or two lifetimes. Hodge's writing is so incredibly specific but somehow universal, so honest and raw but somehow polished to unimproveability. She deserves a wide audience, an attentive audience, an audience that wants to be astounded."—**Dave Eggers**, author of *The Circle*

"Chinaka Hodge is hands down, unequivocally, my favorite writer of words. All day. Every day. She writes with the grace of a dancer, the bars of a rapper, the heart of your best friend, and all of the swag and soul of Oakland. *Dated Emcees* made me cry. And I don't really do that. It doesn't use Hip Hop as a lens. It is Hip Hop. In the way that we, who have grown up with rap as our brilliant, estranged, mythological, abusive lover/father/son, are all Hip Hop. Aware of his flaws, and his potential. And loving him unconditionally. These are poems to read every day. To make mantras from. They are the best poems you've ever read."—**Daveed Diggs**, Actor/Rapper, star of *Hamilton* on Broadway

"Every time I hear new work from Chinaka Hodge I wonder if she was always this good. She was, I'm pretty sure. And yet somehow, she's leveled up again. *Dated Emcees* is a dropped microphone, and a direct challenge to anyone listening. Step your game up."—**George Watsky**, author of *How to Ruin Everything: Essays*

"Ms. Hodge's collection complicates dogmatic notions of feminist principles and hip hop pathologies. She is the steward of a candid and sonorous new form, a lyrical journalism expressed in a meter that climbs from West Oakland's Bottoms to the peak of a Wonder-laced rocket love. *Dated Emcees* is outlined in the matter of black life, streamlined through the filter of black womb ... a smoke-filled lung in a sweat-filled club of safety and danger, and the bass of black moon."—**Marc Bamuthi Joseph**, arts activist, spoken word artist, US Artists Rockefeller Fellow

Dated Emcees Details

Date : Published May 24th 2016 by City Lights Publishers

ISBN : 9780872867024

Author : Chinaka Hodge

Format : Paperback 64 pages

Genre : Poetry

 [Download Dated Emcees ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dated Emcees ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Dated Emcees Chinaka Hodge

From Reader Review Dated Emcees for online ebook

Wieneke says

Heel tof!

Erik Brown says

“sometimes I confuse my loneliness for his affection”

Rebecca says

This slim volume is mighty, but you don't need me to tell you that. Do yourself a favor and listen to Chinaka read her own words. Her contribution to the OMCA exhibit All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50 had me panting for more. These poems can be hard to read as a woman, as a newer Oakland resident, as an American. They're also brimming with music, humor, sex. Who's first in line to borrow my copy?

Rainey says

Hodge's writing is raw and intense, but it is not for me. I mean that with an emphasis on "for." Hodge writes for black women everywhere, perfectly capturing a diaspora that a white woman can never comprehend. I can only use her poetry as a window into a world full of hard realities and injustices.

Jim says

I went to the Oakland Museum of California to see Black Panthers at 50 on Saturday. It's a powerful, beautifully curated exhibit. Toward the end, I watched a series of videos: oral histories mixed in with poetry performances, including one by Chinaka Hodge that was absolutely stunning.

<http://museumca.org/video/all-power-p...>

Hodge's poem bridges the past and present and invokes the revolutionary spirit we need right now to fight this rising tide of income inequality, fascist police, and topdown totalitarianism.

The next day, I went to Christopher's Books in Potrero Hill and saw a copy of Chinaka Hodge's collection Dated Emcees, which was released by City Lights Books last year, and I had to pick it up. The poems are a fluid crossover between personal experience and cultural commentary, and are particularly poignant when the two intersect, as they do in her poems about the Biggie and Tupac.

Hodge is an artist with language and while her words leap off the page they definitely belong there. I've been thinking about these lines since I read them:

"I will turn my thoughts to moths and free them one at a time into a shoe box. I'll shake the cardboard and rattle the flightless flying things 'til their wings fall off. And then eat them to know their taste and wonder why they don't have bones."

That's a description of a particular kind of feeling that didn't have a name before Hodge pinned it to her specimen board, but it lives inside of me now.

Teatum says

Help, I'm in love.

Nakia says

I don't regularly read poetry, but Chinaka is a hometown fave and this cover drew me in immediately. There are a few poems in here that hit me right in the gut because of nostalgia, or the heartbreaking reality through verse, or the beauty and brilliance in her writing.

This is a 3.5 read for me. Looking forward to more!

E says

Do you ever read something and have to stop, put it down, and freak out about how genius it is? That is this entire collection. The best writing is writing that gives form to what you thought could only live amorphously in your brain, or even what you never even consciously thought until you read the words. Chinaka Hodge is an actual genius, and I don't use that word lightly.

There is a section of 24 haiku, one for each year of Biggie's life. I didn't think it could get more amazing than that. Then the next section was 2pac couplets, one for each year he lived. There are poems deeply personal, and still deeply resonant. Gut punches that remind us of the cost of living in a world that values the illusion of whiteness and tries to destroy what it deems is not.

This is for hip hop fans. This is for poetry fans. This is for black women. This is for me, a woman of color. This is for you, whoever you are.

Kristen Lemaster says

Clever as hell, with rhymes that twist and turn and expertly pivot between hard and soft, and always end up being much more than what meets the eye ("light privilege" is a whole world on its own)!

Megan says

4.5

judy-b. judy-b. says

Several of these poems hit me with their language and imagery. A lot of them feel like personal conversations, and because I don't know the people in them or contexts of the exchanges, I feel left out and lose interest; the details feel like identifiers rather than imagery that sets me to my own reflection. It is not that the poems are not written for me—no book is written for me, unless I write it myself, but a poet can invite us into their world, and this felt more like documenting and remembering and reportage. That said, I saw Chinaka Hodge interview Boots Riley, and I think she is utterly wonderful, and I will buy and read her next book too.

Andrea Goldston says

This is a smart book of good poetry. Several beautiful love letters to hip-hop and moving personal poems. I didn't love it, but for its density of thought, it's getting a four. I'd give it a 3.5, but rules are rules.

Lindsay King-Miller says

Brilliant poems whose form and content shows the influence of hip-hop, not only on art, but on relationships and even self-image. I only wish this collection were longer.

Meagan says

Overall, the collection proves how deft Hodge is with rhythm and lyricism. There were some poems with sentence structures that I just didn't understand how to read, but that's okay, because it's not meant for me anyway. There are some pretty powerful images in certain pieces that are painful, but they simultaneously portray a ferocity and anger that's empowering. Great poet and I do recommend reading her work.

Meghan says

Cover blurb from Daveed Diggs and published by Sister Spit? I'm in.
