



The Selected Poems

A.R. Ammons

Download now

Read Online ➔

The Selected Poems

A.R. Ammons

The Selected Poems A.R. Ammons

To the "visions of clarity and terror" in that volume the poet now adds the most important poems from his three books published since. The resulting collection is the essential starting place for new readers, the quarry for those familiar with his work. Among the new poems is "Easter Morning," which the critic Helen Vendler called "a classic poem . . . a revelation."

The Selected Poems Details

Date : Published March 17th 1987 by W. W. Norton Company (first published 1977)

ISBN : 9780393303964

Author : A.R. Ammons

Format : Paperback 136 pages

Genre : Poetry, Literature, American

 [Download The Selected Poems ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Selected Poems ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Selected Poems A.R. Ammons

From Reader Review The Selected Poems for online ebook

David says

Wonderful work, again.

Meter says

Elizabeth says

I've now done presentations on Ammons in two different classes and I just love his work more and more. I definitely recommend this collection!

Emi says

A.R. Ammons' poems give off an air of transcendence through his observation of nature. A scientist, he possesses a keen eye for things easily missed, while still finding and interpreting, as a spiritual man also, the inaudible expressions of the Artist through creation in a manner reminiscent of Thoreau and Whitman. His tone is more composed than I prefer, but colloquial, sincere (lacking any sarcasm), and strangely uplifting even in depicting garbage. Besides "Cason's Inlet," my favorites contained in this book are "The Pieces of My Voice," "Prodigal," "Expressions of Sea Level," "Still," "Clarity," "Cut the Grass," "Giving up Words with Words."

Richard Cho says

I think he just became my favorite American poet.

Mills College Library says

811.54 A521sp 1977

Tonya says

Who am I to rate poetry?

mwpm says

I read this collection on the basis of a poem I read upon open the book to a random page...

I said
Mr. Schafer
did you get up to see the comet:

and
he said
Oh no
let it go by, I don't care:
- Dominion (pg. 43)

This poem contains the humour of a poet who once referred to himself as a "drab pot" ("top bard" backwards). Otherwise, the poem is less remarkable in the collection, belonging to the free form poems that seem to get lost among the lengthier poems that are more formally inclined - most notably, the selection from TAPE FOR THE TURN OF THE CENTURY...

today I
decided to write
a long
thin
poem

employing certain
classical considerations:
this
part of the poem is called the pro-
logue: it has to do with
the business of
getting started:

first the
Must
must be acknowledged...
- (pg. 28)

Another long poem of note, the selection from GLARE, is more characteristic of the poet's later style...

I see the eye-level silver shine of
the axe blade the big neighbour carried

at our house at dawn, and I see the
child carried off in arms to the woods,

see the sapling split and the child
passed through and the tree bound

back...
- (pg. 95)

I must denounce, in the same poem, the poet's misogyny...

...but I love women
so much, even the way you can talk

them into duplicity, I mean their
melting spirituality, like the

rose-warmth of nursing, just moves
me so much, I feel like saying,

please excise me, but are you sure
it would be all right if I mounted

you...
- (pg. 98)

Overall, these longer poems failed to impress me, but there were always a few lines that grabbed my attention and redeemed the otherwise long-winded and excessive rhapsodizing on the poet's part...

I'm alone too much: get
to think
other people
aren't people
- Tape for the Turn of the Year (pg. 37)

these self-monitorings create problems
where there are none: they fill

inanimation with misery, when if you
can look about you and do things,

inanimation goes away and so does the
misery...
- Glare (pg. 101)

I prefer the earlier, shorter poems. These poems are unencumbered by the poet's ambition, his preoccupation with the profound (or trying to sound profound). Ironically, the simplicity of these poems come across to me as being more profound than the longer poems. At their best, they are like Zen Koans...

I found a
weed
that had a

mirror in it
and that
mirror

looked in at
a mirror
in

me that
had a
weed in it
- Reflective (pg. 24)

Peter Landau says

Name-checked by no less a canon-maker than Harold Bloom as one of a handful of worthy contemporary poets, I found THE SELECTED POEMS by A.R. Ammons in my garage with thousands of other worthy titles I have collected for my own personal canon fodder, and decided to maybe even read one of them. I halted at the author's name, which I scanned as if from an untranslated tongue. But the poems are less alien. They're mostly grounded in nature, mountains and oceans. I know the earth fairly well, having spent much of my life there, so this familiarity got me past the strangeness of the poet's name, which isn't that weird but I'll blame my reaction of lifelong dyslexia and its function of turning the comprehensible incomprehensible. That's like poetry for me (or is it the other way around?). There might be more going on than I know, but I'm just trying to keep the words from skating off the page. Then I say, To hell with order, let the words fall where they might! I read the poem and go to the next poem, and before you know it I've read the book. Just like I did with this one.

Caleb Benadum says

This collection receives a four star rating from me only because of the poem "Easter Morning" which is one of the most beautiful and insightful poems I have ever encountered. This is not to say I didn't enjoy the rest, in fact, I love Ammons style and the way he uses enjambment throughout his work. I suppose its because I read Easter Morning first, and then came to this work. While I enjoy nature, what got to me about Easter Morning, the utter humanity of it, was just not present in a lot of his other poems. But all-together this book is highly worth the read.

Christine says

Wow, this is good stuff

Kirkpatrick says

Where the center is

Anatoly Molotkov says

"So it came time/ for me to cede myself/ and I chose/ the wind/ to be delivered to// The wind was glad/ and said it needed all/ the body/ it could get/ to show its motions with". Conceptually rich and refreshing in tone and style.

Stephen says

A new favorite old poet

Bryan says

After reading this collection I will have to say I like Ammons' shorter poems best. This collection has more medium to long poems, some of which are also excellent, but his short poems are the best.
