

City of the Big Shoulders: An Anthology of Chicago Poetry



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Reviews

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(Prof. Damon Kautzer III)

CITY OF THE BIG SHOULDERS: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CHICAGO POETRY



University of Iowa Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, City of the Big Shoulders: An Anthology of Chicago Poetry, Ryan G. Van Cleave, Chicago has served as touchstone and muse to generations of writers and artists defined by their relationship to the city's history, lore, inhabitants, landmarks, joys and sorrows, pride and shame. The poetic conversations inspired by Chicago have long been a vital part of America's literary landscape, from Carl Sandburg and Gwendolyn Brooks to experimental writers and today's slam poets. The one hundred contributors to this vibrant collection take their materials and their inspirations from the city itself in a way that continues this energetic dialogue. The cultural, ethnic, and aesthetic diversity in this gathering of poems springs from a variety of viewpoints, styles, and voices as multifaceted and energetic as the city itself. Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz: "I want to eat / in a city smart enough to know that if you / are going to have that heart attack, you might / as well have the pleasure of knowing // you've really earned it"; Renny Golden: "In the heat of May 1937, my grandfather / sits in the spring grass of an industrial park / with hundreds of striking steelworkers"; Joey Nicoletti: "The wind pulls a muscle / as fans yell the vine off the outfield wall, / mustard-stained shirts, hot dog smiles, and all." The combined energies of these poems reveal the mystery and beauty that is Second City, the City by the Lake, New Gotham, Paris on the Prairie, the Windy City, the Heart of America, and Sandburg's iconic City of the Big Shoulders.



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