



Claude McKay: Selected Poems (Paperback)

By Claude McKay

Dover Publications Inc., United States, 1999. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In his 1918 autobiographical essay, *A Negro Poet Writes*, Claude McKay (1889-1948), reveals much about the wellspring of his poetry. I am a black man, born in Jamaica, B.W.I., and have been living in America for the last years. It was the first time I had ever come face to face with such manifest, implacable hate of my race, and my feelings were indescribable . Looking about me with bigger and clearer eyes I saw that this cruelty in different ways was going on all over the world. Whites were exploiting and oppressing whites even as they exploited and oppressed the yellows and blacks. And the oppressed, groaning under the leash, evinced the same despicable hate and harshness toward their weaker fellows. I ceased to think of people and things in the mass. [O]ne must seek for the noblest and best in the individual life only: each soul must save itself. So wrote the first major poet of the Harlem Renaissance, whose collection of poetry, *Harlem Shadows* (1922), is widely regarded as having launched the movement. But McKay's literary significance goes far beyond his...



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