



## Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation

*Brett Fletcher Lauer, Lynn Melnick, Carolyn Forché (Introduction)*

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One hundred poems. One hundred voices. One hundred different points of view.

Here is a cross-section of American poetry as it is *right now*—full of grit and love, sparkling with humor, searing the heart, smashing through boundaries on every page. *Please Excuse This Poem* features one hundred acclaimed younger poets from truly diverse backgrounds and points of view, whose work has appeared everywhere from *The New Yorker* to Twitter, tackling a startling range of subjects in a startling range of poetic forms. Dealing with the aftermath of war; unpacking the meaning of “the rape joke”; sharing the tender moments at the start of a love affair: these poems tell the world as they see it.

Editors Brett Fletcher Lauer and Lynn Melnick have crafted a book that is a must-read for those wanting to know the future of poetry. With an introduction from award-winning poet, editor, and translator Carolyn Forché, *Please Excuse This Poem* has the power to change the way you look at the world. It is *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*—in poetry form.

## Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation Details

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## **From Reader Review Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation for online ebook**

### **Dominic says**

As much as I believe in the power of poetry (both as a writer of it and a reader of it), I have rarely read books of poetry from cover to cover. This is something I aim to change. This anthology was a real treat because it exposed me to 100 writers I've never heard of who are all producing poetry right this minute. It was a nice cross-section of modern poetry by generally younger poets, and it gave me some clear insight into the current state of things.

As with any anthology, some of the writings were more powerful than others, but it is always difficult to "judge" a poem at one listen. I'm happy that I own a copy of this book so I can revisit the book and give them all a few more glances. I'm sure some will be waiting for me to *truly* discover them.

The *best* aspect of this book, though, is the "About the Poets" section in the back. Not only are we given little bios on each one with links to their websites and Twitter handles, but there are included their answers to a list of questionnaire prompts, among them "What are your favourite poems or books of poetry." Through this last inclusion, especially, I feel like I'm gifted an extra bonus book—particularly because so many of the poems listed were ones I didn't recognize. I look forward to spending more time with poetry this summer as I work on curriculum this summer, and I most definitely will be returning to these suggested poems for inspiration and challenge.

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### **Ashur says**

I want my poems to reach out and punch me in the face; this collection did not disappoint, and exposed me to more poets who I will seek out for further face-punching.

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### **T.J. says**

100 poems by 100 different poets.

It's going to be a mixed bag.

Here are the ten I liked most: Patricia Lockwood's already famous "Rape Joke" (the only one I had read before), Major Jackson's "Blunts" (partly for the Philly references), Cate Marvin's "Yellow Rubber Gloves," Aimee Nezhukumatathil's "High School Picture Re-take Day," Melissa Broder's "The Wait for Cake," Erika Meitner's "Sex Ed," Erin Belieu's "When at a Certain Party in NYC," Mathew Dickman's "Ghost Story," Patrick Rosal's "Uncommon Denominators," and Jennifer Moxley's "The Fountain."

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### **Kendall H says**

I actually only got about half-way through this one. I'm working on reading more poetry, but it usually isn't "work" for me. I got nearly half through this one, and hadn't found even one poem that I liked. I know the nature of these poems is not likeable, or easy. But still. There should be one that I like or that moves me. So I stopped.

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### **Dylan says**

In a reading celebrating the release of this poetry anthology, the editors Brett Fletcher Lauer and Lynn Melnick, as well as many of the poets reading, expressed some version of the same sentiment: this is the anthology they wished they'd had growing up. "Please Excuse The Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation" is a collection of recent poems by adult poets selected with teenagers in mind. You'll find some of the most talked about poems in the last decade, like Patricia Lockwood's viral poem "Rape Joke" and Ocean Vuong's "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome." The themes range from identity, family, racism, depression, suicide, first love, sex, and poetry. As such, the book has been occasionally challenged for content. Because of the wide variety of forms and perspectives, there are many ways to use these titles in the classroom. It would be hard NOT to engage students with poems with titles like "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen," "Race Change Operation," "High School Picture Re-Take Day," and "Postcards to the Other Brown Girl in My Weightlifting Class." These also happen to be some of the best contemporary poems and poets anywhere, for any age. Highly recommended for grades 8 plus.

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### **Tina says**

Poetry is one of those arts that is so subjective that it's almost polarizing. It isn't something that calls to me often, but when it does and I find one I like, it creates a deep passion in me. I picked this book up hoping that I'd find a new gem, something to fill me with passion again and leave me looking for more poetic words. Sadly I didn't get it. There are some great works here (Rape Joke will stand on its own for years to come) but nothing that left me afire for more. Most had me barely even stopping to think about meaning. Because of poetry's subjectivity I suspect that this is more a difference in taste between myself and the editors than a lack of talent by the poets.

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### **Christopher Barry says**

Solid, diverse collection of poems that will make a great resource for my creative writing classes. A few within the collection stand way above the rest of the collection, but nearly all provide good writing/craft examples.

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### **Mischenko says**

See my full review @ <https://readrantrockandroll.com/2017/...>

I picked this up from my local library a while back after there was some controversy with a few parents over the book being considered YA due to the content. They felt that it was inappropriate and came in complaining about the book after their kids brought it home. At the age of 11, my oldest daughter is starting to read some YA and I thought I'd like to check this one out to see what the fuss was all about and if it's something she could read. Plus, I love poetry.

The book is a compilation of about one hundred poems from different authors on various topics including racism, drug use, sexual orientation, sexual abuse, common problems that teens experience with friends and family, and others. It does contain some profanity. It's a good mix of poems and I loved some and didn't like others. A few of my favorites are:

“Richer Than Anyone in Heaven,”

“Boyishly”

“High-School Picture Re-Take Day”

“That’s Everything Inevitable”

“Sonnet”

“Second Summer”

“The Wait for Cake”

My absolute favorite was:

“Concerning the Land to the South of Our Neighbors to the North.”

I enjoyed the book, but I'm not sure about this being used in classrooms and feel that it might be best for upper high school due to some of the content. YA can mean different ages from twelve all the way up to twenty-five and I noticed that School Library Journal lists this as tenth grade and up, but I don't think it's appropriate for all tenth graders. Some of these poems are intense and a few can be offensive. It's books like these that make me wish (even more) that there was a rating system in place for books just like movies, then parents and teachers could decide right away whether a book is or isn't appropriate for their readers. I'm no expert, but in my opinion, even as an adult you really have to go into this book with an open mind.

I was pleasantly surprised to find the afterward which contains information about the poets and some short Q&A's for each. What I didn't like was that the questions asked were about favorite foods, artists, and mottos. I would've liked to learn why they wrote the poem that was featured in the book and what inspired them to write these poems in the first place.

My rating on this is 3.5\*\*\*

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### **Kim says**

Loved some, liked a lot, completely didn't get a few.. The collection as a whole has a rawness and vitality that will speak to teens and adults. The brief bios of each of the 100 included poets are a nice bonus.

Recommended for high school libraries.

Thanks to NetGalley for the digital ARC.

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### **Nancy says**

It rocks and blossoms. Many poems here stopped me (which is almost all I want). I love the link from one poem to the next, and loved flipping to the back to get a little more of the writer's spice, and loved that I made notes of a host of poets and poems I now want to find.

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### **Emilee Powell says**

While I love some poetry (particularly Poe and Dickinson) I did not find this collection of poetry to be very entertaining. There were only a few poems that I enjoyed and quite a few I despised.

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### **Mae says**

Please Excuse This Poem is a wonderful snapshot of poetry. One of the real strengths of this collection is its blurred focus. Unlike other collections of poetry that are sometimes consuming in their depression, joy, or political point, this collection provides a look at modern culture. Each poem provides a snapshot of modern life. Each poem is insightful and interesting. Far from being sorted by subject matter, the arrangement of poems within the volume is neither sedentary, nor jarring. This is a read that will stick with me. I would absolutely recommend this book to both teens and adults who enjoy modern poetry collections.

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### **Samantha says**

I tried to read this book even though I'm not a huge poetry fan. That's probably the main reason why I didn't like it as much as I possibly could have. The poems weren't written in a way that I liked, and most of them seemed to be based upon the same couple of topics, none of which piqued my interest. For a fan of poetry though, I'm sure the book would be a hit.

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### **Morgan Potts says**

It was mostly about love poems or loved ones that left. There is about 100 poems in the book.

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### **Smiletobooks says**

I read this in like an hour and a half and I could not tell you what I just read or if I even read the words but

they have been read.

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