

The Rain in Portugal: Poems

By Billy Collins

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***NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • From former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins comes a twelfth collection of poetry offering over fifty new poems that showcase the generosity, wit, and imaginative play that prompted *The Wall Street Journal* to call him "America's favorite poet."**

The Rain in Portugal—a title that admits he's not much of a rhymer—sheds Collins's ironic light on such subjects as travel and art, cats and dogs, loneliness and love, beauty and death. His tones range from the whimsical—"the dogs of Minneapolis . . . / have no idea they're in Minneapolis"—to the elegiac in a reaction to the death of Seamus Heaney. A student of the everyday, Collins here contemplates a weather vane, a still life painting, the calendar, and a child lost at a beach. His imaginative fabrications have Shakespeare flying comfortably in first class and Keith Richards supporting the globe on his head. By turns entertaining, engaging, and enlightening, *The Rain in Portugal* amounts to another chorus of poems from one of the most respected and familiar voices in the world of American poetry.

Praise for *The Rain in Portugal*

"Nothing in Billy Collins's twelfth book . . . is exactly what readers might expect, and that's the charm of this collection."***—The Washington Post***

"This new collection shows [Collins] at his finest. . . . Certain to please his large readership and a good place for readers new to Collins to begin."***—Library Journal***

"Disarmingly playful and wistfully candid."***—Booklist***

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Editorial Review

Review
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About the Author
Billy Collins is the author of twelve collections of poetry including *The Rain in Portugal, Aimless Love, Horoscopes for the Dead, Ballistics, The Trouble with Poetry, Nine Horses, Sailing Alone Around the Room, Questions About Angels, The Art of Drowning,* and *Picnic, Lightning*. He is also the editor of *Poetry 180: A Turning Back to Poetry, 180 More: Extraordinary Poems for Every Day,* and *Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds*. A Distinguished Professor of English at Lehman College of the City University of New York and Senior Distinguished Fellow at the Winter Park Institute of Rollins College, he was Poet Laureate of the United States from 2001 to 2003 and New York State Poet from 2004 to 2006. In 2016 he was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

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