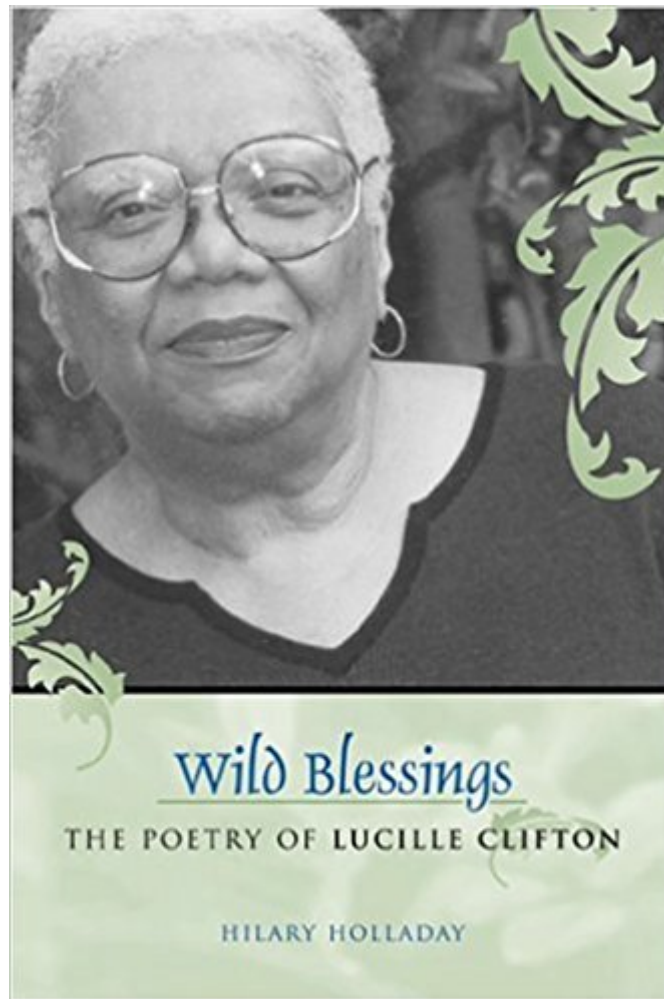


The book was found

Wild Blessings: The Poetry Of Lucille Clifton (Southern Literary Studies)



Synopsis

Widely acclaimed for her powerful explorations of race, womanhood, spirituality, and mortality, poet Lucille Clifton has published thirteen volumes of poems since 1969 and has received numerous accolades for her work, including the 2000 National Book Award for *Blessing the Boats*. Her verse is featured in almost every anthology of contemporary poetry, and her readings draw large and enthusiastic audiences. Although Clifton's poetry is a pleasure to read, it is neither as simple nor as blithely celebratory as readers sometimes assume. The bursts of joy found in her polished, elegant lines are frequently set against a backdrop of regret and sorrow. Alternately consoling, stimulating, and emotionally devastating, Clifton's poems are unforgettable. In *Wild Blessings*, Hilary Holladay offers the first full-length study of Clifton's poetry, drawing on a broad knowledge of the American poetic tradition and African American poetry in particular. Holladay places Clifton's poems in multiple contexts -- personal, political, and literary -- as she explicates major themes and analyzes specific works: Clifton's poems about womanhood, a central concern throughout her career; her fertility poems, which are provocatively compared with Sylvia Plath's poems on the same subject; her relation to the Black Arts Movement and to other black female poets, such as Gwendolyn Brooks and Sonia Sanchez; her biblical poems; her elegies; and her poignant family history, *Generations*, an extended prose poem. In addition to a new preface written after Clifton's death in 2010, this updated edition includes an epilogue that discusses the poetry collections she published after 2004. Readers encountering Lucille Clifton's poems for the first time and those long familiar with her distinctive voice will benefit from Hilary Holladay's striking insights and her illuminating interview with the influential American poet.

Book Information

Series: Southern Literary Studies

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: LSU Press; First Edition edition (November 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807129879

ISBN-13: 978-0807129876

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,517,201 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #131 in [Books > Literature &](#)

Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > African #3203 inÂ Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > African-American & Black #5308 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States

Customer Reviews

Hilary Holladay's *Wild Blessings* is a well-written, well-researched critical study. It offers insight into the professional, as well as private, world of famed poet Lucille Clifton. Clifton is an incredibly talented writer, as well as a prolific speaker and activist. Holladay makes good use of these talents and brings them to the forefront in this illuminating book about the artist. Personally, after reading *Wild Blessings*, I had a better, much deeper, appreciation for Clifton and her work. *Wild Blessings* is a must read for literary scholars and students alike.

On Mar 15, 2015, at 12:11 PM, Cynthia Rich wrote:I read some of Clifton's work some years ago and recall feeling its power--however I hadn't thought of it in recent years. I happened on Holladay's wonderful discussions of that body of poetry, and it sent me back eagerly to the source. *Wild Blessings* is a generous opening to the poetry and for myself even a kind of advanced guide to reading poetry, since Holladay has made me far more welcoming to a poem's ambiguities or multiple meanings as a richness rather than a discomfiture. The factual research is wide and deep, and Holladay seems to have absorbed it at a cellular level--that is, her comfort with the wide-ranging material, including exploring realities and issues of race, feminism, class--feels truly integrated. Unlike too many critical analyses, not only does she provide us with an immensely valuable gloss to this amazing poetry, her work allows us to feel the greatness of Clifton's insight and emotional depth on the prose page, so that there's a kind of seamlessness between the analysis and the poem under investigation.I felt slightly distracted by the inclusion, in the chapter on motherhood, of discussions of Sexton and Plath--rather like an earlier essay that was folded into this book on Clifton. Perhaps because I experience Clifton as the greater poet, it felt slightly disrespectful of her. However, the chapter was interesting in itself, and Holladay may have included the other poets simply because, as she observes, there is so little poetry that seriously investigates women's experience of motherhood.This work is fully accessible--add absorbing and moving--to any lover of poetry or the Black Arts. I am very glad I found it.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Wild Blessings: The Poetry of Lucille Clifton (Southern Literary Studies) Southern Cooking: Southern Cooking Cookbook - Southern Cooking Recipes - Southern Cooking Cookbooks -

Southern Cooking for Thanksgiving - Southern Cooking Recipes - Southern Cooking Cookbook
Recipes The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010 (American Poets Continuum) Southern
Sayings' & Sass: A Chalkboard Coloring Book: Well Bless Your Heart: Southern Charm & Southern
Sayings Funny Coloring Books For Grownups & Relaxation Stress Relief & Art Color Therapy)
Literary Movements & Genres: Horror - L (Greenhaven Press Companion to Literary Movements
and Genres) My Unsentimental Education (Crux: The Georgia Series in Literary Nonfiction) (Crux:
The Georgia Series in Literary Nonfiction Ser.) The Courthouses of Central Texas (Clifton and
Shirley Caldwell Texas Heritage) I am Lucille Ball (Ordinary People Change the World) Who Was
Lucille Ball? Lucy A to Z: The Lucille Ball Encyclopedia I Will Hold: The Story of USMC Legend
Clifton B. Cates, from Belleau Wood to Victory in the Great War Cometh the Hour: A Novel (The
Clifton Chronicles) Sweetness: Southern Recipes to Celebrate the Warmth, the Love, and the
Blessings of a Full Life Edible Wild Plants: Wild Foods From Dirt To Plate (The Wild Food Adventure
Series, Book 1) Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat (A Poetry Speaks
Experience) Children of the Outer Dark: The Poetry of Christopher Dewdney (Laurier Poetry) Best
American Poetry 2016 (The Best American Poetry series) The Best American Poetry 2015 (The
Best American Poetry series) Perrine's Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry (Perrine's
Sound & Sense: An Introduction to Poetry) Poetry Speaks Who I Am: Poems of Discovery,
Inspiration, Independence, and Everything Else (A Poetry Speaks Experience)

[Dmca](#)