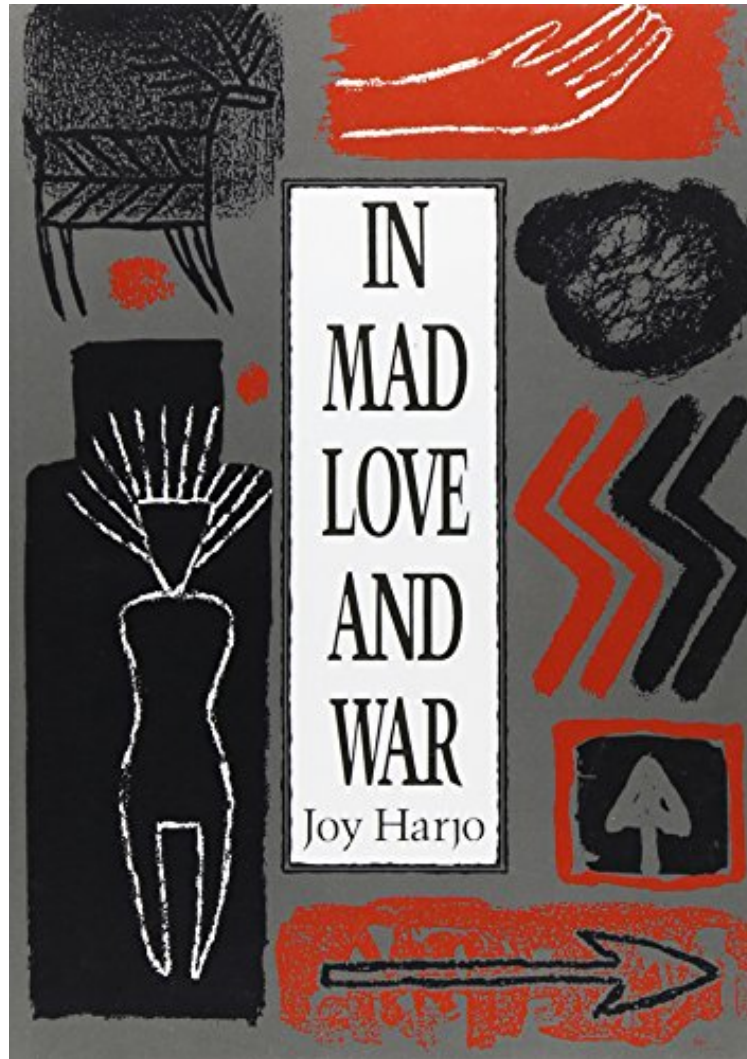


[Free] In Mad Love and War (Wesleyan Poetry Series)

In Mad Love and War (Wesleyan Poetry Series)

Joy Harjo

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Joy Harjo : In Mad Love and War (Wesleyan Poetry Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Mad Love and War (Wesleyan Poetry Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. InterestingBy rozeThis is a very interesting book of poetry. It's written in the form of stories by a woman with Indian heritage. It's intriguing.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy JIGood5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Truthful and technically excellentBy M. J. SmithHarjo is an excellent poet - her poetry is always truthful even if the truth is one that we prefer not to face. This book contains a number of prose poems as well as modern verse; it is clear that Harjo writes what is true and allows it to take the form in which it presents itself.This collection includes poems that explore human relationships, music, death ... universal concerns written about in a way that recognizes and uses the universality while selecting the

images from her Cree background. We are privileged to glimpse another way of relating to the world while being presented with the difficulties of growing up in a minority culture. "At five I was designated to string beads in kindergarten. At seven I skew how to play chicken and win. And at fourteen I was drinking." But her command of the language makes even the starkest reality beautiful: "I am fragile, a piece of pottery smoked from fire / made of dung, / the design drawn from nightmares. I am an arrow, painted / with lightning ...Harjo is one of the best contemporary poets. Try any of her books and you'll see a poet, a musician, a painter all sharing their vision with you.

Winner of the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award (1990) Winner of the William Carlos Williams Award (1991) Joy Harjo is a powerful voice for her Creek (Muscogee) tribe (a stolen people in a stolen land), for other oppressed people, and for herself. Her poems, both sacred and secular, are written with the passions of anger, grief, and love, at once tender and furious. They are rooted in the land; they are one with the deer and the fox, the hawk and the eagle, the sun, moon, and wind, and the seasons spring/ was lean and hungry with the hope of children and corn. There are enemies here, also lovers; there are ghost dancers, ancestors old and new, who rise again to walk in shoes of fire. Indeed, fire and its aftermath is a constant image in the burning book. Skies are incendiary; the smoke of dawn turns enemies into ashes: I am fire eaten by wind. Your fire scorched/ my lips. I am lighting the fire that crawls from my spine/ to the gods with a coal from my sisters flame. But the spirit of this book is not consumed. It is not limited by mad love or war, and there is something larger than the memory/ of a dispossessed people. That something larger is, for example, revolution, freedom, birth.

Joy Harjo is now writing a visionary poetry that is among the very best we have. Village Voice