

The Hill We Climb

By Amanda Gorman

*An excerpt of the poem read by the poet at the inauguration of
President Joe Biden January 20, 2021*

We've seen a force that would shatter our
nation rather than share it,
Would destroy our country if it meant
delaying democracy.

And this effort very nearly succeeded.
But while democracy can be periodically
delayed,
It can never be permanently defeated.

In this truth, in this faith, we trust.
For while we have our eyes on the future,
History has its eyes on us.

This is the era of just redemption.
We feared it at its inception.
We did not feel prepared to be the heirs
Of such a terrifying hour.
But within it we've found the power
To author a new chapter,
To offer hope and laughter to ourselves.

So while once we asked: How could we
possibly prevail over catastrophe?
Now we assert: How could catastrophe
possibly prevail over us?

But move to what shall be:
A country that is bruised but whole,
Benevolent but bold,
Fierce and free.

We will not be turned around,
Or interrupted by intimidation,
Because we know our inaction and inertia
Will be the inheritance of the next
generation.

Our blunders become their burdens.
But one thing is certain:
If we merge mercy with might, and might
with right,
Then love becomes our legacy,
And change, our children's birthright.

National
POETRY
Day 7 October
2021

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So let us leave behind a country better
than the one we were left.

With every breath from our bronze-
pounded chests,
We will raise this wounded world into
a wondrous one.

We will rise from the gold-limned hills
of the West!

We will rise from the windswept
Northeast, where our forefathers first
realized revolution!

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities
of the Midwestern states!

We will rise from the sunbaked South!

We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover,
In every known nook of our nation,
In every corner called our country,
Our people, diverse and dutiful.
We'll emerge, battered but beautiful.

When day comes, we step out of the
shade,

Aflame and unafraid.

The new dawn blooms as we free it,
For there is always light,

If only we're brave enough to see it,
If only we're brave enough to be it.

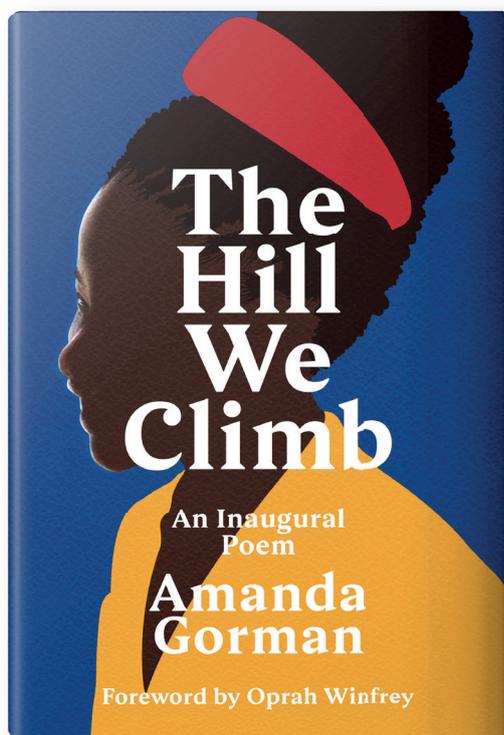
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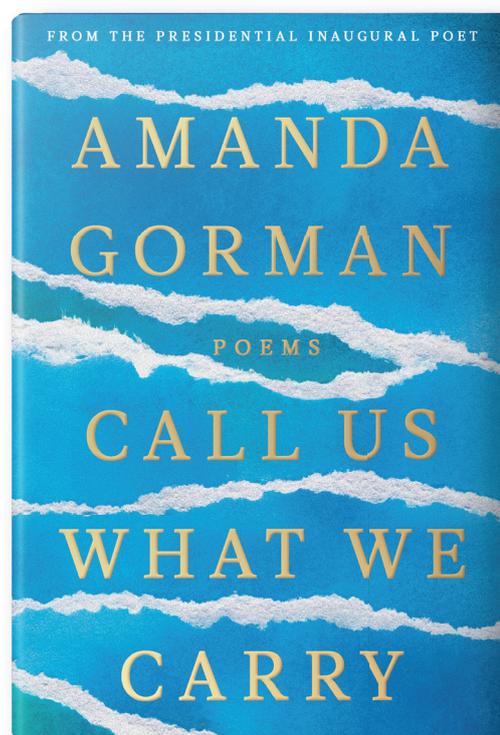
National Poetry Day is an annual UK-wide celebration encouraging people everywhere to enjoy, discover and share poetry, this year it takes place on 7 October 2021 and the theme is Choice.

We would love you to read and respond to Amanda Gorman's poem 'The Hill We Climb' in any way that you choose – it could be another poem, a drawing or painting, some music or a dramatic reading.

Celebrate National Poetry Day by sharing your response on Twitter or Instagram on 7 October including #MyNPDpoem and @VintageBooks



The beautiful *Sunday Times* bestselling special edition of *The Hill We Climb*, including a foreword by Oprah Winfrey, is out now.



Call Us What We Carry, the breakout poetry collection from Amanda Gorman will be published on 7 December 2021 and is available to pre-order now.



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www.nationalpoetryday.co.uk

Inspired by Amanda Gorman's
The Hill We Climb