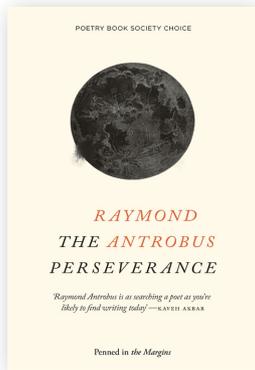




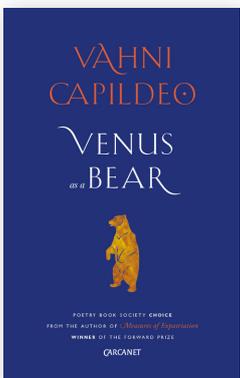
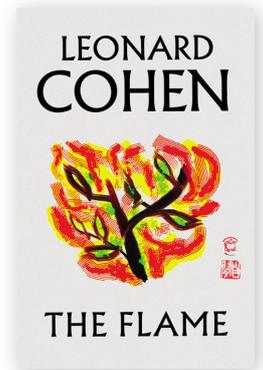
New Poetry Books Recommended For You

A National Poetry Day Selection 2018

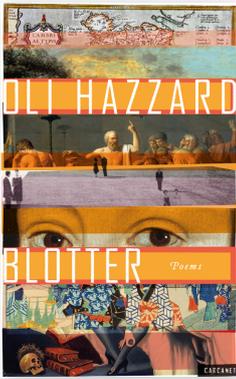


The Perseverance, Raymond Antrobus, Penned in the Margins
 “His monologues are stunning studies of voice and substance, and his lyric poems are graceful and finely crafted” Kwame Dawes
 An extraordinary debut from a young British-Jamaican poet, **The Perseverance** is a book of loss, language and praise. Raymond Antrobus explores the d/Deaf experience, the death of his father and the failure to communicate. Ranging across history, time zones and continents, **The Perseverance** operates in the in between – of dual heritages, of form and expression – emerging to show us what it means to exist, and to flourish.

The Flame, Leonard Cohen, Canongate Books
 A collection of Leonard Cohen’s last poems and writings, selected and ordered by Cohen in the final months of his life, **The Flame** showcases the full range of Leonard Cohen’s lyricism, from the transcendent to the darkly funny. By turns devastatingly sad and winningly strange, Cohen’s songs and poems speak directly to every one of us.



Venus as a Bear, Vahni Capildeo, Carcanet Books
 SHORTLISTED 2018 FORWARD PRIZES
 “These hugely intelligent and impressive poems, to borrow a phrase of their own, are ‘flame powered by roses’”.
The Guardian
 New from Vahni Capildeo, winner of the Forward Prize for Best Collection, **Venus as a Bear** is a collection that explores the strange affinities humans have for creatures, objects and places. Many of the poems respond to real places, objects and people, as investigations, meditations, or dedications. They dwell on bodies and dwell in the body, inviting ardent, open forms of reading, in the spirit of their composition.



Blotter, Oli Hazzard, Carcanet Books

“For Hazzard, language is not a shield, but a flexible and malleable tool in which new modes of expression are lurking” Poetry London

Blotter is made up of five distinct sequences, each made using a different process, including haiku, sonnets and prose. Its poems are preoccupied with the passage of time and how that passage can be differently registered or disturbed: the working day, the distorted seasons, the timestamp of a text message, the jottings of a daybook, the formal structure of a shepherd’s calendar, the double exposure of a photograph.

“A beautiful, bracing book of surprising, absorbing itineraries ... Hazzard is a formidably inventive poet; he is also a generous, playful, inviting one.” Maureen N. McLane

Hera Lindsay Bird, Hera Lindsay Bird, Penguin Press

“Without doubt the most arresting and original new young poet, on the page and in performance” Carol Ann Duffy

“A literary phenomenon ... goofy, funny and tender, her energy and sensitivity will captivate” *Elle*

Hera Lindsay Bird has a cult following in her native New Zealand and her self-titled collection is winning her an ever growing following in the UK too.

“It’s a contemporary book of long, metaphor-laden love poems filled with exploding helicopters, out-dated 90s sitcom references, and dick jokes,” she said when asked to sum up the book for the *Guardian*. The poems, like the poet, are sharp, sardonic, funny and honest, and highly recommended.



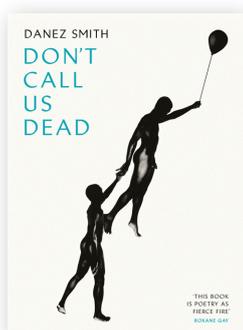
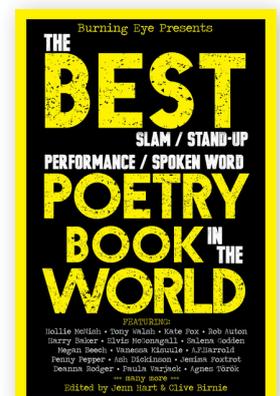
Bad Kid Catullus, Jon Stone & Kirsten Irving, Sidekick Books

The scabrous, self-contradictory poems of Gaius Valerius Catullus (84BC-54BC) have been revisited many times before, and it’s always been a messy affair. But this collection throws the concept of the faithful translation to the wind, allowing poets to create their own weird, wild and shaggy versions. Readers too are challenged to write in this book, until “it’s full of vice and voluptuousness”. There’s no better way to summon and entertain the spirit of Catullus.

Rude and beautiful!

The Best Poetry Book in the World

Burning Eye are indispensable champions of Spoken Word Poetry. Editors Jenn Hart and Clive Birnie present the highlights from their first five years and one hundred Burning Eye books. Here are the hits and anthems; the foot-stomping, finger-clicking, belly-laugh inducing crowd-pleasers gathered together under one cover. Unmissable.



Don't Call us Dead, Danez Smith, Chatto and Windus
SHORTLISTED 2018 FORWARD PRIZES

Danez Smith writes poems that are simultaneously jubilant and confrontational. **Don't Call Us Dead** focuses unwaveringly on two themes: the uneasy realities of contemporary queer life, and America’s long history of racism, an urgent, unwavering and ambitious collection.

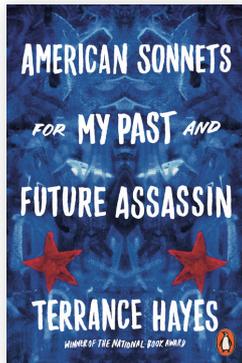
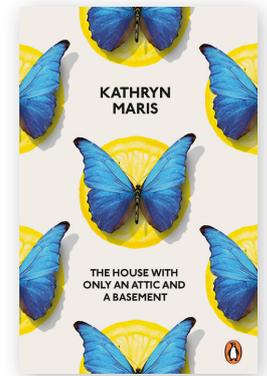
“Haunting ... This material is necessarily bleak, but Smith’s mercurial invention means it’s never merely grim ... The visionary 23-page opener, ‘summer, somewhere’ [...] is something truly remarkable...Memorable, moving and imbued with moral purpose.” Tristram Fane Saunders *The Telegraph*

The House with only an Attic and a Basement, Kathryn Maris,

Penguin Press

“The funniest book I’ve read in years. Maris flexes her wit and wisdom to create a litany of nervous characters in a style that’s mordant, sarcastic, satiric yet often compassionate . . .” Daljit Nagra

Urban, suburban, observant, obsessive and wickedly witty, the poems in Kathryn Maris’s third book range over such subjects as parenthood, marriage, adultery, the politics of children’s sports contests, female incarceration and psychoanalysis. **The House with Only an Attic and a Basement** is that rare thing: a darkly funny collection of poems that courses with keen intelligence, yet carries its sophistication lightly so that it is a pleasure to stride along with every poem.



American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassins, Terrance Hayes,

Penguin Press

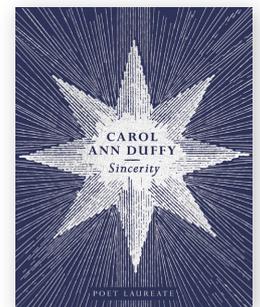
“The poems are redolent of Hayes’s signature rhythmic artistry and wordplay” *Publishers Weekly*

American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin has a claim to be among the first fully-fledged works to reckon with the presidency of Donald Trump — and one of the most surprising. In these 14-line, free-verse poems, all with the same title, Hayes examines what it means to be an American, to belong, and how it feels to be haunted and hunted by violent racism. Manoeuvring his way between stories of love, loss and creation, he creates tributes to the fallen and blistering denunciations of the enemies of the good.

Sincerity, Carol Ann Duffy, Picador

Carol Ann Duffy’s combination of tenderness and toughness, humour and lyricism, unconventional attitudes and conventional forms, has won her a very wide audience of readers and listeners.

Sincerity will be her final collection as Poet Laureate, a frank, disarming and deeply moving exploration of loss and remembrance in their many forms.



She Must Be Mad, Charly Cox, HQ

“Funny and heartfelt and brilliant” *Sunday Times*

Love; Mind; Body; Age, these are the four sections in her debut collection, and in them Charly Cox captures the formative experiences of today’s young women from the poignant to the prosaic in writing that is at once witty, wry and heartfelt. Wayward nights out that don’t go as planned; the righteous anger at those men with no talent or skill or smarts who occupy the most powerful positions in the world; and, of course, the hurt and indecision of unrequited love, these are poems to make you think, “it’s not just me”.

**Don't forget to let us know
what you're reading using
#NationalPoetryDay**

