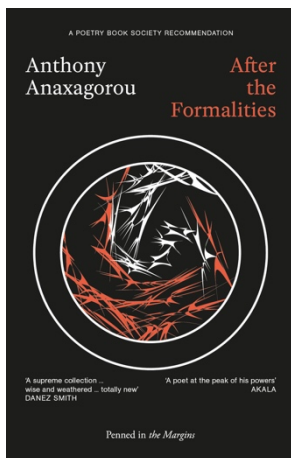




Great New Poetry Books recommended for you A National Poetry Day selection

[After the Formalities](#)

Anthony Anaxagorou, *Penned in the Margins*



In the words of **The Independent**, Anthony Anaxagorou is 'a vastly accomplished, unconventional, selfless poet'. He already has an enthusiastic following but *After the Formalities* is set to be his breakthrough collection. Technically polished, emotionally transformative and razor-sharp, these are poems that confront and contradict; poems in which the scholarly synthesises with the streetwise, and global histories are told through the lens of one family. Anaxagorou 'speaks against the darkness', tracking the male body under pressure from political and historical forces, and celebrates the precarious joy of parenthood.

[If They Come for Us](#)

Fatimah Asghar, *Corsair*

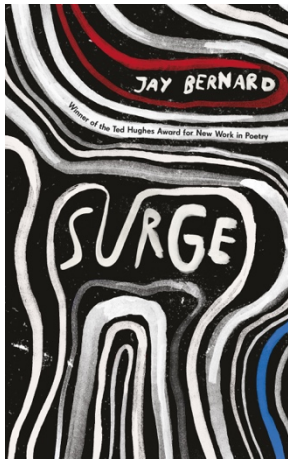


In her debut poetry collection, poet and film-maker Fatimah Asghar explores the experience of being a Pakistani Muslim woman in America today in poems that are powerful and intensely personal. At a young age, her family were forced to leave Kashmir for Lahore, and she returns to themes of division, along the lines of nationality, but also age and gender.

'Its exploration of queerness, grief, Muslim identity, partition and being a woman of colour in a white supremacist world make this the most essential collection of poems you'll read this year.' *Nikesh Shukla*

Surge

Jay Bernard, *Chatto & Windus*

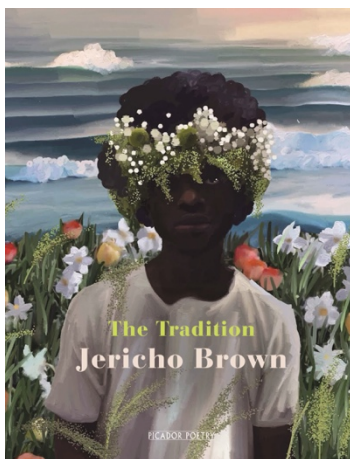


Jay Bernard is an archivist and filmmaker as well as a poet, and the poems in *Surge* bring an archivist's eye and a filmmaker's technique of pacing to bear on their radical excavation of black British history, drawing lines between the New Cross Fire of 1981 (in which thirteen young black people were killed) and the contemporary legacy of racism and neglect which culminated in the Grenfell disaster.

'Jay Bernard's poems sing with outrage and indignation, with fury and passion. They tell the story of two terrible fires of our times, and shockingly show how the past holds up an uncomfortable mirror to the present. They have brio, they have brilliance, they are breathtakingly brave.' *Jackie Kay*

The Tradition

Jericho Brown, *Picador Poetry*

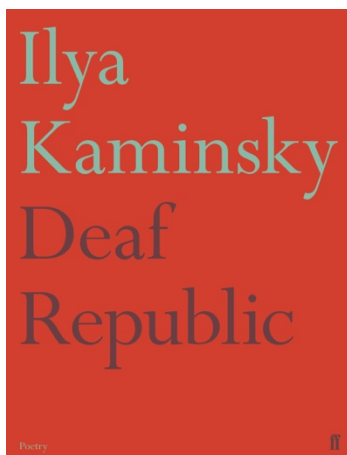


Jericho Brown's daring poetry collection *The Tradition* details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. Brown's poetic concerns are both broad and intimate, and at their very core a distillation of the incredibly human: What is safety? Who is this nation? Where does freedom truly lie?

'These astounding poems by Jericho Brown don't merely hold a lens up to the world and watch from a safe distance; they run or roll or stomp their way into what matters. This is one of the most luminous and courageous voices I have read in a long, long time.' *Tracy K. Smith, U.S. Poet Laureate*

Deaf Republic

Ilya Kaminsky, *Faber & Faber*



This astonishing parable in poems unfolds episodically like a play, its powerful narrative provoked by a tragic opening scene: when soldiers breaking up a protest kill a deaf boy, the gunshot becomes the last thing the citizens hear - in that moment, all have gone deaf.

'A perfectly extraordinary book. It is so romantic, and so painful, with such a stunning lightness of touch but such devastating weight.' *Max Porter*

The Carrying

Ada Limón, Corsair



'Ada Limón is a poet of ecstatic revolution'
Tracy K. Smith

"I will/ never get over making everything/ such a big deal," declares Limón in *The Carrying*, a thought-provoking collection, in which small moments convey "the strange idea of continuous living." Vulnerable, tender, acute, these are serious poems, brave poems, exploring with honesty the ambiguous moment between the rapture of youth and the grace of acceptance.

'This is as-the-crow flies poetry – it goes straight to the heart.'
The Guardian

ADA LIMÓN
The Carrying

In Nearby Bushes

Kei Miller, Carcanet Press

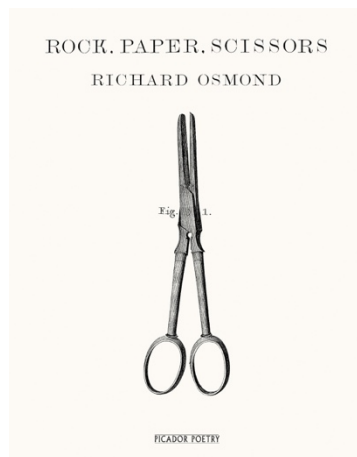
the accused allegedly wrapped a piece of metal wire tightly around the complainant's neck and inflicted several wounds over her body until she fell unconscious. He allegedly dumped her in nearby bushes and fled the scene. Jamaica Observer, April 18, 2018. When detectives visited the scene yesterday morning, the body of a man was found along a dirt track in nearby bushes and a second body found near the house where the shooting occurred. Jamaica Observer, November 19, 2017. The sixteen-year-old student was shot and injured and a third man who was also involved in the shooting, was seen making his escape in nearby bushes. McK 079 [News], January 30, 2018. The police were called to the area and a search conducted, during which the soldier was found in nearby bushes suffering from gunshot wounds. Yallahs, January 11, 2019. Gunmen kicked the body of a man was found along a dirt track in nearby bushes and a second body found near the house where the shooting occurred. Jamaica Observer, June 1, 2017. The 16-year-old student was shot and injured and a third man who was also involved in the shooting was seen making his escape in nearby bushes. The St Mary police continue investigations. Jamaica Observer, November 19, 2017. KEI MILLER 2018. Gunmen kicked open the door to the house where the girl and her family reside, and dragged her to nearby bushes where she was raped. Jamaica Observer, May 2, 2014. The gunmen reportedly opened nearby bushes. The St Mary police continue investigations. Jamaica Observer, November 19, 2017. KEI MILLER 2018. Gunmen kicked open the door to the house where the girl and her family reside, and dragged her to nearby bushes where she was raped. Jamaica Observer, May 2, 2014. The accused allegedly wrapped a piece of metal wire tightly around the

Kei Miller is an original, a poet with the ability to defy expectations, to write with rare boldness and wit. His highly anticipated new collection explores his strangest landscape yet – the placeless place.

Here is a world in which it is both possible to hide and to heal, a landscape as much marked by magic as it is by murder. An unmissable collection.

Rock, Paper, Scissors

Richard Osmond, Picador Poetry



Richard Osmond was with his friends in London Bridge on June 3rd 2017 and witness to the horrific terrorist attack that took place. A powerful and challenging collection of original poems, *Rock, Paper, Scissors*, is a response to being caught up in the incident and represents the complex, fragmentary nature of traumatic experience. It documents his attempts to make sense of these experiences or, more often than not, to explore the ways in which they don't make sense.

Unknown Soldier

Seni Seneviratne, *Peepal Tree Press*

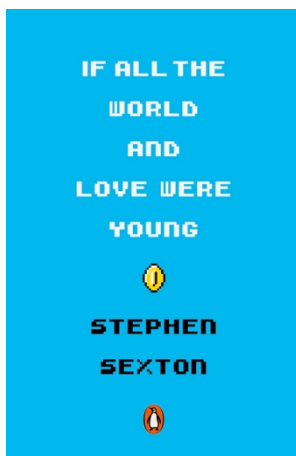


This is a collection of huge depth and resonance. Its stimulus is a collection of photographs of the poet's late father, then a young man, originally from colonial Sri Lanka, who was serving as a radio operator in an otherwise all white platoon in the 1939-45 desert war in North Africa. The collection begins and ends in an imaginative recreation of the life suggested in those photographs, many reproduced in this collection. There is connection with a much-loved father, but also a sense of the unknowable.

A work of great beauty, whose lucid simplicity of language is married to a rich complexity of structure and the bird-flight of images that connect poem to poem.

If All the World and Love Were Young

Stephen Sexton, *Penguin Press*



Stephen Sexton says he started this book as a kind of joke: though these poems are about the death of his mother, this moving, otherworldly narrative takes us through the levels of Super Mario World, whose flowered landscapes bleed into our world, and ours, strange with loss, bleed into it. This remarkable debut is a daring exploration of memory, grief and the necessity of the unreal.

'Every poem in this book is a marvel. Taken all together they make up a work of almost miraculous depth and beauty.' *Sally Rooney*

Shortlisted for the Forward Prizes for Poetry 2019 Best First Collection category