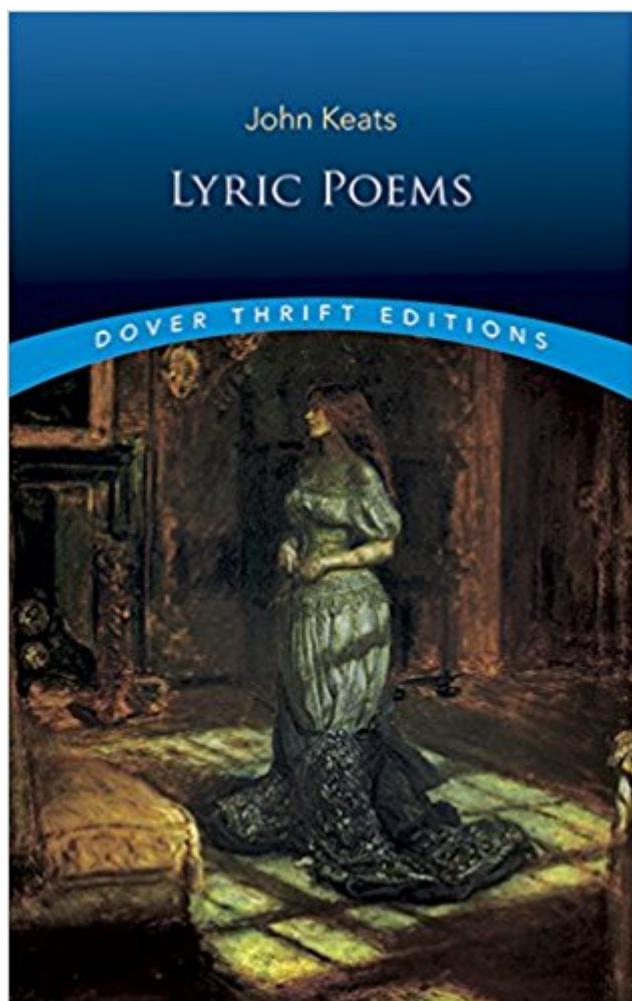


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Lyric Poems (Dover Thrift Editions)



Synopsis

One of the greatest English poets, John Keats (1795â€”1821) created an astonishing body of work before his early death from tuberculosis at the age of 26. Much of his poetry consists of deeply felt lyrical meditations on a variety of themes â€” love, death, the transience of joy, the impermanence of youth and beauty, the immortality of art, and other topics â€” expressed in verse of exquisite delicacy, originality, and sensuous richness. This collection contains 30 of his finest poems, including such favorites as "On first looking into Chapman's Homer," "The Eve of St. Agnes," "On seeing the Elgin Marbles," "La Belle Dame sans Merci," "Isabella; or, the pot of Basil" and the celebrated Odes: "To a Nightingale," "On a Grecian Urn," "On Melancholy," "On Indolence," "To Psyche," and "To Autumn." These and many other poems, reproduced here from a standard edition, represent a treasury of time-honored poetry that ranks among the glories of English verse.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The poetry of John Keats is a remarkable discovery for the reader unfamiliar with his works. His poetry is timeless. I have read this small Dover edition innumerable times and with each reading I gain further pleasure from his works. I find it almost inconceivable that Keats only lived 25 years. His early death, due in part to an extended hiking tour, is almost without parallel. It is as though Shakespeare had died after producing only a few plays. The Dover edition, priced only at a dollar, represents much of Keats' better known, shorter poems. They are arranged chronologically (the best are not at the beginning) and illustrate his growth as a poet. If you are new to Keats, I suggest

that you skip around, maybe focusing on the shorter poems in the beginning. But don't wait too long to delve into the longer The Eve of St. Agnes. And sample the Odes of Keats, possibly his best lyric poetry. I found it helpful to make a few notes in the margin for unfamiliar words and expressions, particularly archaic terms. My notes assisted me considerably in second and third readings. I knew of John Keats, but had not read his poetry. But some time ago I happened to read Perinne's Sound and Sense, an excellent guide to reading poetry, and developed some interest in Keats. You might find this text a useful reference. I also recommend an audio tape (ISBN 0-8045-0868-2), Treasury of John Keats, read by Robert Spaight and Robert Edison. The readings are quite exceptional. I especially enjoyed The Eve of St. Agnes.

Keats is after Shakespeare perhaps the most musically rich of all the English poets. He sees and feels and hears the world in lines of incredible beauty. "Truth is Beauty, Beauty Truth, That is all ye know on earth and all ye need to know." are the lines of Keats which best describe his own work. This edition contains what are arguably Keats greatest work, the Odes. Their richness may not always be easily understood, but the feeling which runs through them is of art at its most abundantly wondrous.

Very nice gifts for my graduating seniors. Hey, what 18-year-old doesn't want a small anthology of Keats! ^

Lyric Poems is a small book containing several beautiful writings about the world. It seems to plant ideas and imagination into even the most un-imaginative people. There are a few poems I didn't care for, but don't let that stop you from purchasing this book. I liked it (and I'm pretty picky!) ... I bet you'll like it too!

Great bargain for a lot of Keats!

Book was in wonderful condition.

Great book, sent quickly!

John Keats is awesome!

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