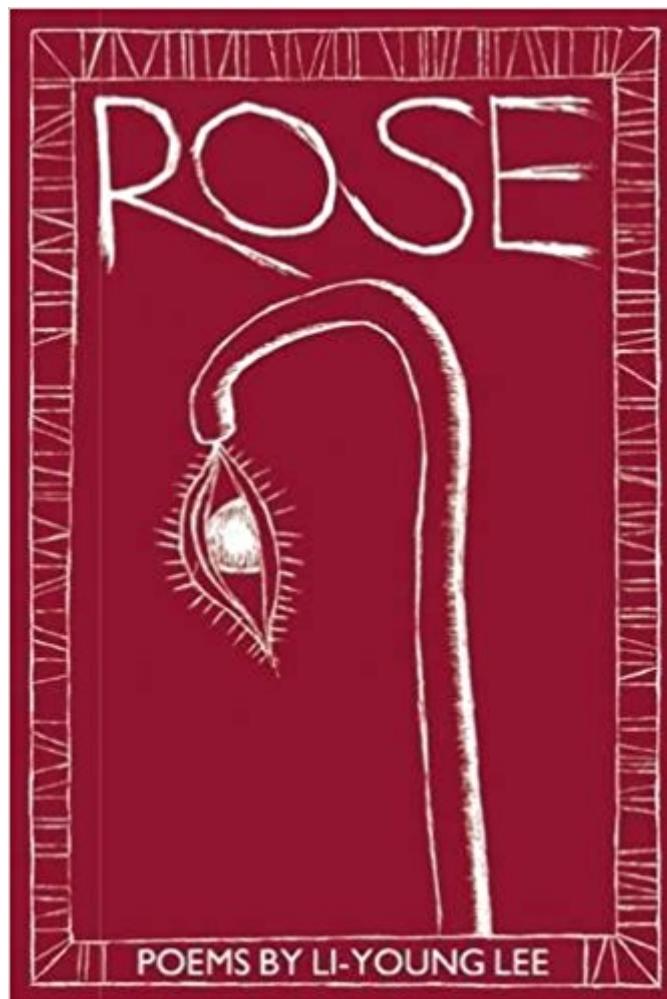


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# Rose (New Poets Of America)



## Synopsis

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In this outstanding first book of poems, Lee is unafraid to show emotion, especially when writing about his father or his wife. "But there is wisdom/ in the hour in which a boy/ sits in his room listening," says the first poem, and Lee's silent willingness to step outside himself imbues Rose with a rare sensitivity. The images Lee finds such as the rose and the apple are repeated throughout the book, crossing over from his father's China to his own America. Every word becomes transformative, as even his father's blindness and death can become beautiful. There is a strong enough technique here to make these poems of interest to an academic audience and enough originality to stun readers who demand alternative style and subject matter. Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New YorkCopyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Always A Rose Ash, Snow, Or Moonlight Between Seasons Braiding Dreaming Of Hair Early In The Morning Eating Alone Eating Together Epistle Falling: The Code From Blossoms The Gift I Ask My Mother To Sing Irises The Life Mnemonic My Indigo My Sleeping Loved Ones Nocturne Persimmons Rain Diary Visions And Interpretations Water The Weepers The Weight Of Sweetness -- Table of Poems from Poem Finder®

Embracing the words, the family, the father tenderly leads me to pause and reflect on my own life. I find great energy in reading his poems and sharing his thoughts and drinking them in. Thank you for this gift.

Very rarely does the inspiration for a book of poems make itself so clearly felt throughout. In this case, the shadow of the poet's father is cast clearly across nearly every page. Part I is the homage, Part II is the eulogy and Part III is the aftermath. Every section is cooled by this shadow of loss which doesn't dissipate, even in poems that at first seem to be about something else. Still, I was taken by how powerful & beautiful & even uplifting this book is. It has a working unity that is often missing in other collections. The ever-present father figure is one key to this unity but so is the recurrence of certain images; particularly, growing things: persimmons, peaches, ivy, apples, roses, hair. His lover is a vegetable for harvest. Persimmons are a metaphor for knowledge. In "Eating Alone," the poem that closes Part I, Lee writes: "I've pulled the last of the year's young onions./The garden is bare now. The ground is cold..." Which brings us again to the poet's father and pears, but now the fruit is dead. The poet and his father walk "among the windfall pears" and his father bends "to lift and hold to my/eye a rotten pear." The poem concludes with the poet left with "my own loneliness./What more could I, a young man, want." A statement, not a question. These memories are the poet's muse, sad but necessary. Part II is the title poem, Rose, which works as an extended eulogy. At first, it seems like it will free us from the father figure as we move into Part III, where the survivors, like the poet and his mother, take on more influence. Still, Lee never really shakes his father's influence. "The Weepers," for example, reminds us of the continuing presence of grief. And yet, despite the melancholy that hangs over the book, it is a wonderful read. I have yet to read a collection of poems where every poem is great but this one works towards it. Maybe because the whole thing feels like a single, extended poem rather than individual one. In any case, I highly recommend this book.

Beautiful

Kafka said... "We ought to only read books that stab us." Li-Young Lee has stabbed me with "Rose." In these beautifully crafted poems, he has interlaced the past and the present, his Chinese heritage, mother, father, wife...but Oh, his father is so very present. Reading Lee's poetry is like soaking in a warm bath, having a lovely dream, remembering something beautiful. The language dripped inside my ears and at times moved me to tears...His memories about hair...'The scent of it, hair falling against his face, his skin, brushing it, combing it, braiding it, unbraiding it, hair spilling over, her autumn hair, and finally, caught in his mother's hair.I love these images. I love Li-Young Lee for stabbing me in the heart and making me feel."In my dream I fly past summers and moths,to the thistle caught in my mother's hair, the purple one I touched and bled for,to myself at three, sleeping beside her, waking with her hair in my mouth." -Li-Young Lee-

Li-Young Lee's poems are powerful, beautiful and speak to the humanity in all of us. I marvel at his command of language, the artist's eye with which he sees the world, and his ability to share these with the reader. Writing about the mundane, such as his wife's hair or a bag of peaches, memories of his father, or reminiscences of being an immigrant, in each poem is a work of art. I strongly recommend this collection of poetry, especially for those who have read little (or none) poetry - these poems are simple, beautiful and striking - a magnificent collection.

I love this book. Li-Young Lee's poems are so tender, so touching. I feel lifted and soothed when I read his work. His world is a gentle world, and he approaches it with devotion and a spirit of gratitude. I have no doubt that any reader who discovers him will feel just this way.

Beautiful, haunting poems.

The love to his father. Very moving poems. Needs readers to investigate more to the stories to understand his feelings. I like it.

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