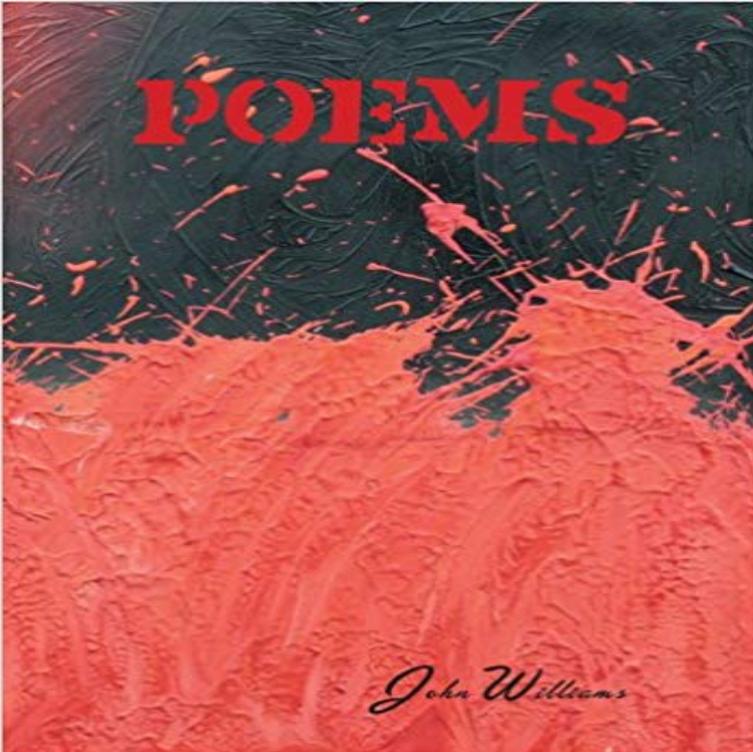


Poems



This is a collection of poems by John Williams. In his own words: My poetry experiences first came from the great Australian poet Banjo Patterson I must have been five or six and I was amazed at the stories that jumped from those pages. They were about Australia and our land. My love of poetry fell off after that. The poetry that was coming out, or the poetry that I was made to read at school, had no soul and the teachers always made me dissect the words and come up with my interpretation. The whole thing was boring. That probably sums up school anyway. Poetry should be just that. Poetry. Nothing to dissect or hover over, and if you dont like it, dont read it. I have met poets who talk for hours about their words but for me, the poem must be to the point, and it must be authentically yours. It is a vehicle for your thoughts and expression, it must be completely free of ego and must definitely come from ones own thoughts and experiences. When you read my poems, you will find many things: love, fear, prayers and broken dreams. I think you will also find courage, humour and my spirit. I never wanted to publish any of my poems as they were very close to the bone. I have read them in various places and have gotten many comments. I didnt understand why people asked me questions about their content, but I soon realized they were very different to other peoples words. The poet that I credit for giving me the ability to be myself was Charles Bukowski. I dont write like him, but I can write with the same honesty that he does. I respect this man for his integrity in putting down his words and also the life that gave him his words. I dont try to write like any other. My poems may touch you in some way. My words may align with your journey or your past. They are, I can assure you, authentic and from my life. The last poem in my book explains what my poetry is about.

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