

**Wade in the Water: Poems** The extraordinary new poetry collection by Tracy K. Smith, the Poet Laureate of the United States Even the men in black armor, the onesJangling handcuffs and keys, what elseAre they so buffered against, if not loveâ€™s bladeSizing up the heartâ€™s familiar meat?We watch and grieve. We sleep, stir, eat. The extraordinary new poetry collection by Tracy K. Smith, the Poet Laureate of the United States Even the men in black armor, the onesJangling handcuffs and keys, what elseAre they so buffered against, if not loveâ€™s bladeSizing up the heartâ€™s familiar meat?We watch and grieve. We sleep, stir, eat.Love: the heart sliced open, gutted, clean.Love: naked almost in the everlasting street,Skirt lifted by a different kind of breeze.â€™’from â€™Unrest in Baton Rougeâ€™•In Wade in the Water, Tracy K. Smith boldly ties Americaâ€™s contemporary moment both to our nationâ€™s fraught founding history and to a sense of the spirit, the everlasting. These are poems of sliding scale: some capture a flicker of song or memory; some collage an array of documents and voices; and some push past the known world into the haunted, the holy. Smithâ€™s signature voiceâ€™’inquisitive, lyrical, and wryâ€™’turns over what it means to be a citizen, a mother, and an artist in a culture arbitrated by wealth, men, and violence. Here, private utterance becomes part of a larger choral arrangement as the collection widens to include erasures of The Declaration of Independence and the correspondence between slave owners, a found poem comprised of evidence of corporate pollution and accounts of near-death experiences, a sequence of letters written by African Americans enlisted in the Civil War, and the survivorsâ€™ reports of recent immigrants and refugees. Wade in the Water is a potent and luminous book by one of Americaâ€™s essential poets. ...more Wade in the Water: Poems PDF ebook

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