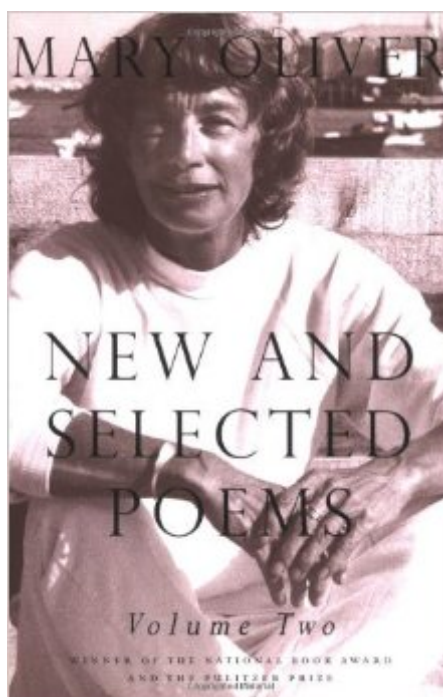


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# New And Selected Poems, Vol. 2



## Synopsis

Mary Oliver has been writing poetry for nearly five decades, and in that time she has become America's foremost poetic voice on our experience of the physical world. This collection presents forty-two new poems-an entire volume in itself-along with works chosen by Oliver from six of the books she has published since *New and Selected Poems, Volume One*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have about 5 of her poetry books. I feel that her poetry has gotten more and more beautiful over time, and believe that this collection is better than Volume 1. Mary Oliver is definitely my favorite poet - much of her writing is about a thirst for growth and spirituality, and finding peace in nature and love (friendships and relationships). I have given this book to a number of friends, who are also touched by her gift of expressing the unexpressable. Some of my favorite poems in this book: the Percy series (her dog), Why I Wake Early, and The Whistler. My other favorite book of Mary Oliver poems is her most recent one: "Thirst". It deals with grief at the lost of her long-time partner and is quite beautiful. For those looking for a really good book of poems in general, I \*definitely\* recommend "Good Poems," compiled by Garrison Keillor; and "Risking Everything: 110 Poems of Love and Redemption" compiled by Roger Housden. Enjoy!

Mary Oliver's poems are masterful creations that resonate in my mind and heart each time I read them. Her language is soulful; her imagery brilliant. She is a master craftsman who builds each

poem precisely. Her poems talk of so many things in the natural world; she distills each to its barest essence and allows us the enjoyment of sharing it; I always feel as though she invites me to come along to discover these sacred sights and insights found in nature. The poems in this collection explore and reveal the essence of fireflies, moss, the stars, the toad, the owl, Daisies, beans, the cricket, the Black Bear, the seasons, Blackwater (a place), the Soul and many other creatures and their habitats. She is a sublime poet of the natural world and this collection is superb! I recommend it to anyone!

The Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Mary Oliver, finishes her poem, "What Have I Learned So Far" with the line, 'Be ignited, or be gone.' To me, this conveys the passion she brings to life and poetry. What comes through clearly in her poems is her reverence for nature. *New and Selected Poems, Volume Two*, is a moving collection of her past works combined with many new poems. There is a Zen-ness that permeates her work. Haiku-like parsimony with no embellishment. Nature does not need anything extra. For example, writing about what she saw after a storm - And this detail: the body of a duck, a golden-eye; and beside it one black-backed gull. In the body of the duck, among the breast feathers, a hole perhaps an inch across; the color within the hole a shouting red. And bend it as you might, nothing was to blame: storms must toss, and the great black-backed gawker must eat, and so on. It was merely a moment. I recently saw Mary Oliver at the 92nd Street 'Y' in New York City where she was reading from this collection. See her if you can. She reads as she writes, with dignity and with passion and wisdom. This is an extraordinary collection of poems.

Oh, Mary! How I love you so. This book is as delightful and enriching as any of her other collection of poems. Mary knows nature. She knows presence. She knows how to love her life. She is a genius who never seems to feel the need to be "clever." ("Clever is for cocktail parties" a poetry teacher once told me.) Oliver expresses her wisdom in the purest, clearest, most sacred poems. Whenever I feel down, I read "Why I Wake Early": "Hello sun in my face," I say.

*New and Selected Poems Vol. 2* by Mary Oliver: You get a lot of bang for your buck here, but I prefer getting the books of hers I love and skipping the ones I don't. Her books tend to have strong themes that get lost in a greatest hits collection. That said I like this better than the first volume of selected poems. Excerpt (I like how she says "a right answer," rather than "the right answer"): "Have I not thought, for years, what it would be/ worthy to do, and then gone off, barefoot and with a silver pail, to gather blueberries,/ thus coming, as I think,

upon a right answer?/ What will ambition do for me that the fox, appearing suddenly at the top of the field,/ her eyes sharp and confident as she stared into mine,/ has not already done?~•About  
Kindle version: Formatting is well-done except for a few stray hard hyphens.

If you appreciate Mary Oliver's art - and I certainly do - you will enjoy this book. Oliver's poetry is easily accessible to everyone and clear as the spring water she writes about. If you celebrate the natural world, with its joys and tragedies, and this life that we all walk through, you will appreciate Oliver. A book that I will keep for all of my days

Saying that Mary Oliver writes "nature poetry" is like saying Louis Armstrong played the trumpet. Her verse is rich and deep, what Coleridge called philosophical poetry. And yes, she does look and listen deeply to the natural world, striving to be aware and yet become one with it. Oliver writes with passion in both the physical and spiritual senses. This collection is a way to spend some time in the company of a deep soul.

Mary loves nature and sees the beauty, grace and salvation in each creation. Step back, sit down and explore what surrounds us (and we probably don't even notice), through Mary's eyes and touching words.

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