



Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid

By Nikki Giovanni

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Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid By Nikki Giovanni

From one of America's most celebrated poets, Nikki Giovanni, comes this poignant collection of poetry that celebrates the simple pleasures of everyday life and the bonds we share with those closest to us.

“This slim volume delights on every page. There are stories, imaginings, whimsy, and startling images which prove the poet’s power and her command of language . . . Anyone with a love of language will be delighted with this book and the continuing publication of America’s treasured poet.”—*San Francisco Book Review*

The poetry of Nikki Giovanni has spurred movements and inspired songs, turned hearts and informed generations. She's been hailed as a healer and as a national treasure. But Giovanni's heart resides in the everyday, where family and lovers gather, friends commune, and those no longer with us are remembered. And at every gathering there is food—food as sustenance, food as aphrodisiac, food as memory. A pot of beans is flavored with her mother's sighs—this sigh part cardamom, that one the essence of clove; a lover requests a banquet as an affirmation of ongoing passion; homage is paid to the most time-honored appetizer: soup.

With *Chasing Utopia*, Giovanni demands that the prosaic—flowers, birdsong, winter—be seen as poetic, and reaffirms once again why she is as energetic, "remarkable" (Gwendolyn Brooks), "wonderful" (Marian Wright Edelman), "outspoken, prolific, energetic" (*New York Times*), and relevant as ever.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

With nearly 30 books for children and adults to her credit as author, and another half-dozen or so as editor, along with a stately list of major awards and honorary degrees, Giovanni has long been a force for literary exuberance and social responsibility. In her latest accessible, teasing, and poignant collection, she offers straightforward, plain-speaking, sneakily resonant poems, many in prose form. Giovanni remembers her grandparents and the joys of simple pleasures: food, Sunday mornings, driving cross-country. She looks back to her childhood and first literary stirrings, and to her return, as a published poet and mother, to take care of her parents after her father's stroke. When she describes the labor involved in scraping off layers of old floor wax, she cues us to reflect on how the past shapes and nurtures us even as we must free ourselves from its smothering accretions. Giovanni also reminds us that "Love is a skill;" then, in "When the Girl Becomes a Poet," she celebrates the opportunity to "be a truth giver / contribute / something beautiful and useful to the world." --Donna Seaman

Review

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From the Back Cover

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

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