



Before The After

Love, Loss, and Revolution in the Time of COVID
by Mary Anne Anderson

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Poetry | Politics | Humor



ADVANCE REVIEWS from WRITERS

- “Read this book straight through! Images in every poem build on the ones before to grow poem-by-poem increasingly profound. Lyrical words firing wonderful images - stanza by stanza, poem by poem - dig an entrance into unexpected depth. Sometimes single words dissolved me through a floor I always saw as solid. If you want intellectual poetry, go elsewhere. For lyric poetry to enchant you - stay here - read this book!”
— John Galkins, author of *Dad, Demons, Dames and a Dwarf: My Trip Down Freedom Road* (with Mancow Muller)
- “Blending humor, disappointment and wisdom, Mary Anne invites us to share her travels navigating a world altered by the rise of Black Lives Matter and curtailed by COVID-19. Poetic vignettes narrate events cancelled due to the virus, an imaginative letter to humanity from a disappointed Gaia, how life during the time of coronavirus has radically changed. She explores what we have lost and how we transform and adapt.”
— Dr. Jennifer Lagier, author of *Camille Comes Unglued* and *Dystopia Playlist*
- “Mary Anne Anderson's poems ignite an imagery . . . unmasking issues of unequal justice, police brutality and systemic racism while showing how the human spirit and social courage attempt to adapt to a new normal.”
— Ashok K. Bhargava, President, Writers International Network
- “. . . brilliantly threads insight and compassion, and combines fierce intelligence with a bared heart in this remarkable book.”
— Melinda Gohn, Maui Live Poets Society

RECOMMENDATION from a BOOKSELLER

- “This was lovely. I have been very hit or miss with poetry lately, and the words and imagery were just beautiful. Very much enjoyed spending time in this dreamy collection.”
— Elise Adams

REVIEWERS at NETGALLEY

- “*Before The After* by Mary Anne Anderson explores life during the pandemic, and the wide range of emotions that are experienced during a confusing and unsettling time. The poems are organized according to the unfolding events and prevailing thoughts of each month, and I would second the suggestion that the collection be read straight through to experience the full impact of the poet's powerful commentary and observations. Ms. Anderson has captured and articulated what so many of us are feeling during these unprecedented times.
— Andrea Pole
- “Their messages still resonate with me during these difficult days, . . . poems that were making me feel so much - like the author was reading my mind.”
— Rachel Ogden
- “She writes eloquently on the matter of race, George Floyd, and on being a white ally. Having said that, some of her best poems are playful and almost cheerful in tone, if not in content. . . . This poetry collection is definitely worth a read to experience the ups and downs of the last year through a unique voice and perspective.”
— Charley Jones