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Poems & Stories 2016

"It is these poems/stories that connect to who we are. We are so simple yet at times so complex.
We can feel so insignificant yet so precious and rare... Thank you for sharing your words."
—Jesse Silva, "Memento for Christy"

POEMS & STORIES {2016}



ROBERT P. PARKER, PHD

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Synopsis

I wrote these poems and stories over thirty years: at Rutgers, where I taught in the New Jersey Writing Project, in the Ontario Writing Project, and in Nevada at two community colleges. Different titles and different lengths of time; some in the summer, some not. I had no thought of publishing them, ever. . After I had two strokes in the space of one week, I decided to look again at the poems and the stories. The logic was gone, but the imagination was running wild. I headed to the garage and looked to see what I could find in a file folder. I brought them inside, took them out to see what I had, organized them in sequence (more than a few times!), looked them over again, put them on the computer, and wrote five more poems. The first one was "Eva" and the rest followed, pre-stroke and post-stroke. I shaped these poems and stories myself. I added a word, or words, on the computer, changed the arrangement of the poems/stories, deleted "stuff," or added some different words so that it would seem to me to be "finished." The book as it is now features 16 poems and three short stories, all of which emerge from the author's life. "The poems are of love, humor, anger, grief, and completeness. The short stories are breath-taking tales of people important to the author, deeply honest stories about heartbreak and love."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book of "Poems and Stories" could also be titled "Friends and Family".By introducing me to his friends and family Bob has shown me more about them then if they had been here in person. Through then I learned about people and the power of language to create them in my mind. Once they are in my mind, they have helped me to see the world through their eyes and thus helped me expand my own vision.This has been one of the very few books that I have read more than once

and gained new understanding each time through.

"Poems and Stories" is a lovely shrine to a life lived. This collection highlights the author's various experiences through life as a youth in the north east, an academic across America, and ultimately as a man facing the uncontrollable passage of time out west. His poems are dotted with the characters he has met along the way. I particularly enjoy his writings on his childhood. They offer a glimpse into a forgotten world. "Poems and Stories" is a thoughtful read with an underlying warmth and heart that makes it comforting to enjoy over and over again.

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