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Love Alone: Eighteen Elegies For Rog



Synopsis

An eighteen-poem cycle on the death of his lover from AIDS emphasizes the power of love and its survival through pain and anger, and the tragedy and magnitude of a terrifying twist of fate and its effect on a generation.

Book Information

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: St. Martin's; Copyright 1988 edition (November 15, 1988)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312026021

ISBN-13: 978-0312026028

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.2 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This is a book to carry with you. Unfortunately I did, and lost it. The effort I've put into trying to get another copy is testament to the power and eloquence of the eighteen poems it contains. This work juxtaposes the power of love and the ravages of death with humbling clarity and emotion. I used it to uplift me when I lost faith in life, and inspire me when I lost direction in my work. Mr Monette says in his preface that it was written almost without pause in the months after his lover's death. The immediacy of his grief, the violence in his anger and the vivid importance of his memories take you with terrifying force into those months. And when you are there, you cannot help but feel the anger and injustice and, overwhelmingly, feel the love that he and Roger shared. I sound sycophantic. I know. But this book puts me in a difficult position because it is truly how I feel. When promised love goes wrong, I read these poems, always alone and late at night. When I can't remember why I spend my days thinking up ways to stop more gay men becoming infected with HIV, I read these poems to remind me what happens when people are ignored. I'm hoping a copy can be found to replace the one I lost.

It is worth buying the book simply for the first poem, "Here". Each of the pieces moves at a fever

pitch, leaving the reader unable to pause even for breath, until the poem ends and leaves you holding the book, wanting more, but needing a break, unable to turn the page. They wear you out reading them, but in the best way possible. Monette documents the death of his partner, and the knowledge of his own advancing illness, and he does so in a way that takes you with him : you feel the urgency, pain, sadness, beauty, love, and preciousness of life right along with the poet. Love Alone isn't poems that just tell you things. It puts them in your hands.

I had no idea that a simple page of unpunctuated emotion could grind at your heart and make you cry the way this does, easily. It is raw, angry, despairing and loving all at once, you feel as if the poems are Monette's one strand of hope, a lifeline desperately connecting him to existence in the months after Roger's death. These literally take your breath away, they are a rollercoaster of heartbreak and desperation, grabbing some vital organ inside of you and not letting go until the poem's been read. I would give these six, seven, twenty three stars if I could, because this is the purpose of literature, to preserve human emotion and experience. These poems do that exquisitely.

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