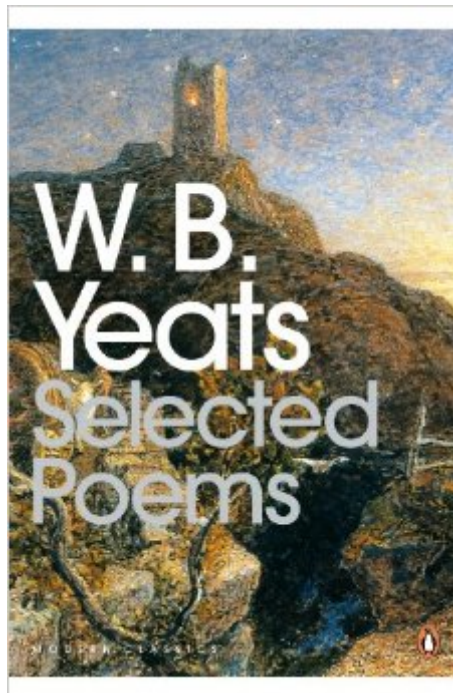


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Modern Classics Selected Poetry (Penguin Modern Classics)



Synopsis

W.B. Yeats's *Selected Poems* is edited with an introduction and notes by Timothy Webb in Penguin Modern Classics. Few have lived their ideas so passionately and nobly as W.B. Yeats in his love affairs, politics and poetry. From his youth in the 1880s, a fertile dreamer rediscovering and remaking the Irish tradition, he grew into a great and innovative poet of the twentieth century. This selection of Yeats's work includes the final book from the unjustly neglected narrative poem *The Wanderings of Oisín* and a number of lyrics from Yeats's work as poetic dramatist. This edition breaks new ground by allowing the reader to engage with a dozen poems in alternative versions; in many other cases it provides significant variants, so that Yeats's struggle to revise his poetry can be experienced with unusual immediacy. It also includes explanatory and textual notes for each poem. W B Yeats (1865-1939) was one of the great and innovative poets of the twentieth century. Much of his most vigorous verse on love, sex, Irish and international politics, the complexities of the occult and the 'sedentary toil' of poetry was produced in the years between his fiftieth birthday in 1915 and his death in 1939. If you enjoyed *Selected Poems*, you might like *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry*, also available in Penguin Classics. 'A compelling poetic presence ... together with Joyce, Yeats made modern Irish poetry possible' Timothy Webb

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Customer Reviews

In his introduction to this work Timothy Webb provides an overall view of Yeats view of the poetic

art. He explains how Poetry for Yeats was a matter of 'hidden revelation'. It was the creating of a poetic identity, often through the use of masks and alter egos. It was the use of the forms of Tradition which were deliberately crafted into Art. Yeats was a great reviser of his own poems and Webb tries to give the reader a sense of the variants. Yeats compared the work of the poet to the craftsman, and to the work of the stone-breaking and re-shaping workmen of the world. He resented that this work was considered a form of idleness by many when he himself believed it to be the hardest work of all. Yeats was a poet of the ideal, and the confession of an individual was to him inadequate basis for poetry. Instead that individual had to be transformed often through connection with mythological personalities. The sense of magic and wonder reflected by Yeats also relate to his idea of the poet as a kind of alchemist who makes verses out of his own 'phantasmagoria'. This present edition strikes a good balance between those which simply present the poems and those which are for scholars primarily.

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