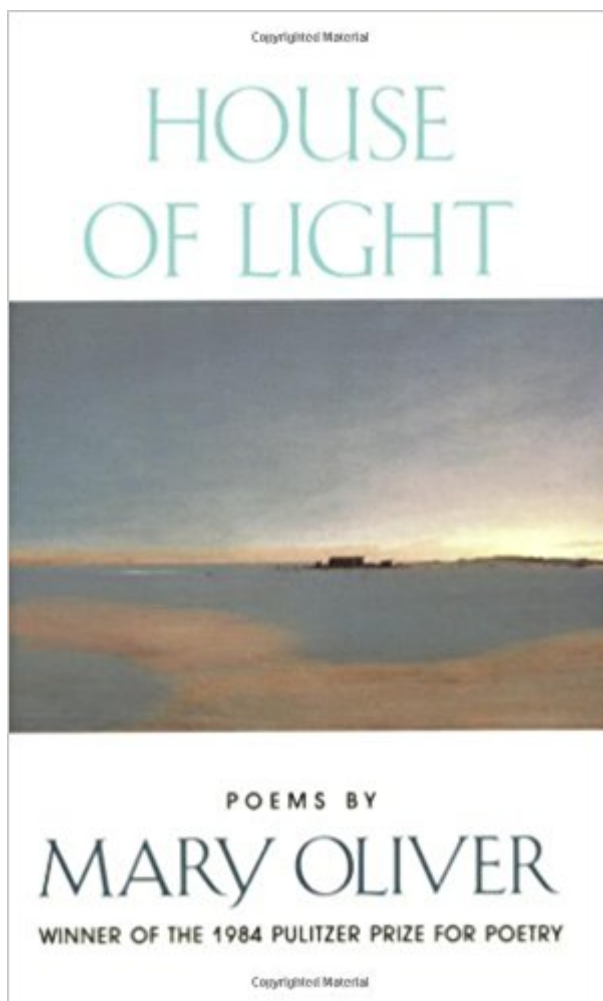


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House Of Light



Synopsis

This collection of poems by Mary Oliver once again invites the reader to step across the threshold of ordinary life into a world of natural and spiritual luminosity. Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? — Mary Oliver, "The Summer Day" (one of the poems in this volume) Winner of a 1991 Christopher Award Winner of the 1991 Boston Globe Lawrence L. Winship Book Award

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In her seventh book, Oliver—Pulitzer Prize winner for her 1984 collection, *American Primitive* (LJ 2/15/83)—carries readers into her vivid landscape and involves them in her process of discovery and recognition—from the tiny white spot in the distance, to the realization that it's a bird, to the name and song of the bird. This is a poet who rhetorically asks: "how could there be a day in your whole life/ that doesn't have its splash of happiness?" Lyrical lines move gracefully across the page as the spirituality mounts. One is tempted to call these poems too "poetic" or "romantic," but Oliver does not avoid nature's cruelty. With original, compelling vision, she discovers the same "splash of happiness" in the snow shining around a beggar boy or the smile of a woman cleaning toilets in Indonesia. Recommended.—Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New York Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. —This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Oliver's poems are thoroughly convincing--as genuine, moving, and implausible as the first caressing breeze of spring. -The New York Times Book Review

Mary Oliver really is a magnificent poet - her images of nature conjure up perfect visuals of whatever natural scene she's describing. I do tend to find her poetry very intellectual as opposed to emotional (Charles Bukowski; Pablo Neruda - two of my favourite poets whose work is molten with emotions). However, despite this somewhat austere element to her poetry, her collections are always a worthwhile read and HOUSE OF LIGHT is no exception. Some favourites from the book:"Spring

I absolutely love Mary Oliver's House Of Light poems and find that whenever I need to feel enriched I reach for her book. It is just lovely and rich with wonderful imagery and a tinge of Eastern philosophy sometimes, I think. She is my favorite poet, although I have not liked all her work. This particular book is the best one I've had of her poems and I've given many copies as gifts to those I love best. Thank you for making it available.

The first Mary Oliver poem I ever read was stapled to a gift basket I received from my company. The occasion was the death of my mother. I read the poem over and over, transfixed, unable to picture anything but the ending image of the transcendent light washing us from our bones. This poem went straight to my core and has never left, 3 years later. She was cremated, delivered to the light, and somehow it was right and fitting that this poem become my sole and proprietary piece of connection. Her works are soaring and filled with buoyancy. Her vision and quiet observation of the world has captured me gently, gently.

I just love Mary Oliver. I think her poetry is stunningly beautiful and profound. Starting from the natural elements that surround us she weaves a world of beauty, enchantment and love. Philosophical, thoughtful and full of feeling for the world both seen and unseen.

If you appreciate personal and thoughtfully philosophical reflections on our connections with the non-human natural world you will love this book. It is poetic, poignant and at times quite unsentimental. She is a loving and quirky truth-teller and for me, reading her words is always invigorating.

I like Mary Oliver's work, period. House of Light invites the reader on a journey to awareness of natural and simple everyday things, which take on a specialness in the chosen words of Mary Oliver. I can see Mary Oliver as a "Universalist" and a darn good one at that. The awareness about which I write is that which leads to insight and love of things in nature. It is like reading about these wonders, and seeing them for the first time from your heart. There is also the gift of interior silence that is created in your soul as you "SEE" that which you read. It is no wonder that "House of Light" was the winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Donald J. Da Ros

Amazing.

Ever since I became enamored of Mary Olliver as poet, I have enjoyed collections of her often brief, moving, and deeply spiritual poetry. HOUSE OF LIGHT is one of several thin volumes of poems, written over several decades, that permit one to bring these jewels of poetic art along without being a heavy thick book, so you could carry Mary in your luggage or your briefcase or backpack. This is simply a lovely piece of work.

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