

Spotlight

August 4, 2017

Poetry: you love it, you hate it, you pretend to understand what it means. It's not the most accessible form of writing and for most people brings up memories of tiresome high school essays or moody university boyfriends. But today's spotlight is shining on two very beautiful, very accessible collections of poetry perfect for a quiet sit on the dock or evening on the couch.

The first collection by Julie Fogliano, *When Green Becomes Tomatoes*, is a charming and wise wander through the seasons. Written for children but with a universal appeal the collection follows the year from spring to winter with individual poems named for different days of the month. This collection would be fun to share year round reading the poems as the days they are named for pass by. The poems are bite sized, with most ranging in the 10-25 line range, and this makes the book easy to pick up and sample at will. One of the most common challenges with poetry is taking it in all too quickly and becoming overwhelmed with the twists, turns, wordplay, and dense imagery. Poetry is best sipped - not gulped - and this is a perfect collection to sip from.

Another collection that lends itself well to this type of reading is *A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver. Oliver is a heavy hitter in the poetry world and her nature inspired writing has won her many fans and the Pulitzer Prize. No subject is too simple for her pen and her poetry ranges from the lighthearted mischief of her dogs to quiet, early morning walks, tea on the counter, and basically every type of bird you can imagine. Oliver is very much a poet of the everyday and offers a gentle and welcoming introduction to the genre.

I will leave you with Julie Fogliano's poem "august 3" and a word of encouragement to take time for a little poetry this summer.

august 3

if you want to be sure
that you are nothing more than small
stand at the edge of the ocean
looking out

Megan Clark
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