



## Black Poet

*Cassius Ali*

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## **Black Poet** Cassius Ali

Black Poet is one man's expression of the hurt, anger and joy of looking at the world as a black person. The Author/Actor Cassius Ali has written three poetry books The Last Word, Poetic Expression and A Bully Story (A Bully Story has two short tales of bullying as well as poetry). After interviewing people of all colors, Cassius Ali tells their stories using what he calls a "Poetic expression." Because of growing up through hardships, you'll find many of the poems are filled with emotion and passion. Cassius has worked with and around children for over two decades and learned that for most of us, that is when we decide the direction of our lives. If we do not express the hurt, anger or even the joy we may hold inside of ourselves our choices could be made because of un-channeled emotions. After watching the news Author/Actor Cassius Ali wrote the poem called "On this Day".

## **Black Poet Details**

Date : Published January 29th 2015 by Outskirts Press

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Author : Cassius Ali

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## From Reader Review Black Poet for online ebook

### Grady says

"It's not what you are but who you choose to be, that's what's important."

Actor/photographer/writer/poet Cassius Ali's biographical information adds to his own statement that this book of poetry, simply named BLACK POET, is 'one man's expression of the hurt, anger and joy of living in the world as a black person today while reflecting on yesterday.' At the end of this compelling collection of poems Cassius offers the following: 'As one of nine children in a single parent home, Cassius experienced financial hardships that lead to shyness and a habit of imagining a better world. Experiencing bullying very early in life has taught Cassius to believe in himself. Writing has been a vehicle of escape and release for Cassius that he shares with the world in his poems and stories. After the early loss of his Father, Cassius became a photographer and actor. "Expression" to Cassius, is a metaphor for "the light at the end of the tunnel"'. Author/ Actor Cassius Ali has written three poetry books - 'The Last Word', 'Poetic Expression', and 'Black Poet' as well as the autobiographic novel 'A Bully Story'.

And that is all we need to know about the very handsome man on the cover of this book of poetry. All else he tells us in the course of his poems, written in rhyming form with a spectrum that matches what he has informed us of his background coupled with what we are all observing in the terrifying repetition of racial injustices that seem more frequent with each year. But his poems say more than a reviewer's comments.

### HOMELESS

After weak family ties,  
laws written to support lies.  
I found myself on the street.  
No money  
you'll almost do anything to eat.  
Friends have forgotten my name.  
When you fall asleep  
your belonging  
are anyone's to claim.  
Police threaten and yell.  
I was tormented  
like I was in hell.  
Trust becomes a fairytale.  
I start thinking  
I only have a soul to sell.  
Faith became a life line.  
When you don't have your own  
People don't treat you very kind.  
I remembered who I was  
never willing to give in.  
I held out for a miracle  
in this world of sin.

### THE BLACK POET

Filled with expression and passion

The black poet  
Suffered pain and loss,  
hurting inside  
In case you didn't know it  
The Black Poet  
Unfairly judged  
treated unkind  
Made to feel less than  
You put it out of your mind  
The Black Poet  
They tried to stop you by the roots  
Tempting you with violence by spiting  
on your boots  
The Black Poet  
You didn't look away  
when love faded from your heart  
You wanted it to end  
but afraid to part  
The Black Poet  
Go now share your vision  
Remember how this ends,  
won't be your decision.  
The Black poet  
Believe all life has purpose  
Light a candle for the lost.  
Hate and Temptation comes with a price  
you won't be able to live with the cost  
The Black Poet

#### TODAY'S SOCIETY

Many lives has been lost in the pursuit of freedom. A countless number came here for a better life but we can't say that about everyone. Some had to protest and picket. No more, serving the wicked. It's been a long ride on the underground rail road, I prayed for a ticket. Forced to watch loved ones sold away. Beaten and abused if I had anything to say. A colored man was made to spread his seed. Not doing what you're told was a cause to bleed. It was against the law for my mind to feed. What makes one color above another? With No monogamy, how do you know your brother? Are we really free in today's society? Not when any white man can freely slay me.

This is poetry we need to share, we need to internalize, to empathize, and in the final analysis to praise a troubadour who has the passion to speak out in hopes that the world will change. And it must. Cassius Ali is offering more than his gifts and his soul in these poems. He is offering the chance to open our eyes and change.

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#### Denise Lucas says

Black Poet written by Cassius Ali is a collection of short poems written by the author. The subject of each poem is different and vary greatly. I loved that the author was able to use poetry to express his pain, anger,

frustration, hopes and dreams in relation to his race/color. The author did a wonderful job with the poems and I really enjoyed each one. The varying subject was nice, as it kept my interest throughout the entire collection. I am unsure if the poet used his background for some, if so then I commend him for sharing some personal experiences in his poetry and his overall theme of acceptance for all was wonderfully portrayed. Unfortunately I do not have the skin color to understand the oppression the author faces daily, but am glad that Cassius is using his words and gift for poetry to express the oppression that happens to people of color. I highly recommend this poetry collection to all who enjoy reading poems.

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### **Payal Sinha says**

Black Poet is a collection of poems with many different themes such as love, race, nature, faith, etc. The prominent theme is of race and it is here that the poet expresses himself the best. The language is clear and precise, however, in some instances I felt that his words needed more polishing up. The poems are fresh and modern day, yet in some poems you feel nostalgic as they remind you of older times. Black Poet offers you variety on a platter and poetry lovers find themselves enjoying it.

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### **Sky says**

Cassius Ali's short volume of poems is a beautiful collection of insights and observations about living as a black man in America today. The book contains over 100 short and very readable poems, ranging from topics on love, education, faith, freedom, home, growing up, making relationships work, but especially race and race relations in the United States today. The work is very relevant to anyone interested in gaining an understanding of some of the thoughts and feelings of black men in America today. In fact, this is why I bought the book – and it does not disappoint.

Some of the poems are more subtle, others bowl you over with a frank statement about this world we live in. Take "American Banner," for example, in which Ali says, "Is it part of some evil plan/? You put on a sheet/ to hide your deeds of violence./ The illusion of justice / has faded ever since./ You treat us in an unfair manner/ while hiding behind the "American banner." While some of the poems can use some editing and proofing (e.g. than/then confusions), overall the poems are powerful and insightful. And they are hopeful for a better tomorrow too. Strongly recommended.

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