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Me And Nina



Synopsis

"Monica Hand's me and Nina is a beautiful book by a soul survivor. In these poems she sings deep songs of violated intimacy and the hard work of repair. The poems are unsentimental, blood-red, and positively true, note for note, like the singing of Nina Simone herself. Hand has written a moving, deeply satisfying, and unforgettable book."—Elizabeth Alexander

In an intimate conversation with the "High Priestess of Soul," Monica A. Hand surveys the places and moods of alienation through poems that are as musical and stylistically diverse as Nina Simone's work. Hand readily embraces a "mass hypnosis" style, putting "a spell on [us]" with her intensely passionate cries and commitment to embracing both tragedy and exuberance in these insightful poems.

From "Dear Nina":
I am not recession
depression
oppression
compression
crooked line
broken line
polka
dot
parking lot
or spot
I am a Gift from God
I know that
I am an un-kept
solo song
Monica A. Hand is a poet and book artist currently living in Harlem, New York. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Aunt Chloe, Black Renaissance Noire, The Sow's Ear, Drunken Boat, Beyond the Frontier, African-American Poetry for the 21st Century, Gathering Ground: A Reader Celebrating Cave Canem's First Decade, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA in poetry and poetry in translation from Drew University and is a founding member of Poets for Ayiti.

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Customer Reviews

This book not only engages with Nina Simone; it also uses her character and values as prompting for Monica Hand's own very unique voice. Hand shows us the best kind of mentor relationship: one in which you don't merely emulate the mentor, but rather grow into a fellowship with them. It's an

inspired and inspiring collection of poems!

This is great poetry, very introspective. I enjoyed reading every last poem. I'm a new fan.

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