



Manic Sylph Writes... Poetry & Thoughts by Mona Soorma

Poems, Writing Prompts, Interviews, Resources for Writers, Books, Poetry Reviews and more...



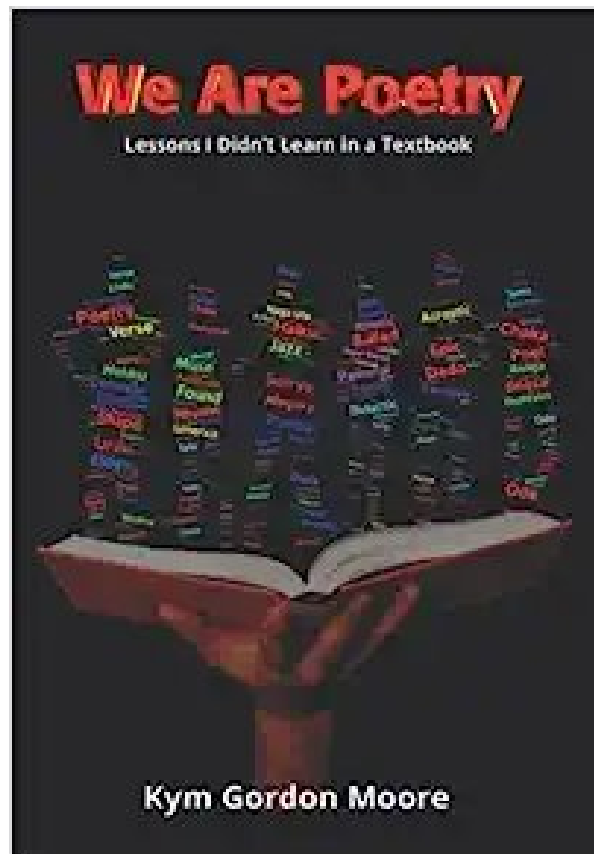
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Lit eZine Vol 3 | p-19 | BOOK
REVIEW | We are Poetry:
Lessons I Didn't Learn in
a Textbook

WE ARE POETRY: Lessons I Didn't Learn in a Textbook

A Review by [Khaya
Ronkainen](#)



Book Review

[We are Poetry: Lessons I Didn't Learn in a Textbook](#)

by Kim Gordon Moore

A review by [Khaya Ronkainen](#)

What comes to mind when you think about poetry? Boring, obscure, high-brow, dead or the new generation of Instapoets destroying the art of poetry. Whatever you think, you are not alone. So many have written obituaries about poetry. Lately, there's a lament for the demise of the traditional form.

While we can make our own individual assessments about poetry and its value, many of us were introduced to poetry through educational systems that presented a single narrative about what is poetry, and who can write, read or appreciate it. A narrative that persists even today, as disparities in poetry continue. No wonder it sometimes feels detached from our realities.

Poetry isn't just about words, stanzas, or the poet. It's about connecting emotion to the experience, a voice to the story, and spiritual beats to your heart.

Kym Gordon Moore is here to remind us that poetry is still alive, vibrant, wondrous, and inventive, in capturing joys, despairs and all the things that make us human, as it's been doing for centuries. *We Are Poetry: Lessons I Didn't Learn in a Textbook* (Independently Published, 2022) is a big book both in terms of volume and ideas. I'll fall short of capturing the author's vision and mission for this book.

Regardless, I consider the book a comprehensive textbook in its own right. Except, it exists to disrupt the conventional order of poetry. Because the author believes "throughout centuries there has been a one-sided presentation and exposure to the world of arts and humanities."

The book is divided into two parts. In part one, Gordon Moore establishes a premise; poetry as the underdog of literature. She backs up her argument by presenting the architecture and anatomy of poetry, disparities in poetry, the geographical dynamics of poets and poetry, and so on. And no, she doesn't only present problems, but offers solutions too.

The author also highlights some benefits of poetry. Poetry as an art of conversation to bridge an understanding, a healing voice and power to fight against illiteracy. In her words:

Poetry awakens our curiosity, ignites our imagination, unveils our visions, and stirs up our emotions.

By the end of part one, the reader walks away with actionable new ways of engaging with and appreciating poetry. The author holds poets accountable too, in how they tell their stories to engage audiences, marketing and selling their works, instead of waiting to be discovered.

Poetry is a journey and each verse on that journey is carefully crafted like a sign or landmark, along the highway meandering through your heart and thoughts.

Part two of the book is all about life lessons through poetry. Gordon Moore's own personal collection takes the reader on a journey as she explores various themes and topics. Some poems are nostalgic and some humorous as they offer encouragement, and marvel at the beauty of nature, among other things. But it's the poems or lessons of TheraPoetry (a term coined by the author) that are my favourites because they show the power of poetry in communicating emotions that are often difficult to talk about.

In conclusion, Kym Gordon Moore is a self-professed educational advocate. She is on a mission to eradicate illiteracy and aliteracy. Her book contributes to the discourse about the accessibility of poetry to all readers and the representation of diverse voices. To me, this book exists because the author could identify a problem and an underserved market in her community. Then she set out to write a book that offers solutions.

We Are Poetry is in conversation with books such as *Why Poetry* by Matthew Zapruder; a call for a return to reading poetry and making poetry accessible to all readers, and *Our Words, Our Worlds: Writing on Black South African Women Poets* edited by Makhosazana Xaba, which examines the accessibility of poetry and the literary landscape in South Africa, among other things.

For creative writing teachers and literature professors, *We Are Poetry* is a brilliant teaching aid to inspire a love for poetry in the classroom. Gordon Moore, herself, facilitates poetry workshops and mentors aspiring poets as part of her community outreach.

For school librarians, this book is essential. Talk to your school board or whoever approves the budget and have this book available in your libraries.

For readers, the beauty of this book is that it offers a refreshing perspective through the lessons it presents. It's also written in a conversational style, which makes it accessible to the reluctant poetry reader as well. So, if you find poetry boring and irrelevant, read this book!





Connect with [Khaya on her website](#)

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[Khaya Ronkainen](#) is a writer of poetry and prose. Her work is largely influenced by nature, often examines the duality of an immigrant's life and lately also explores themes of ageing and women's health.

She is the author of two poetry chapbooks, *Seasons Defined* (2018) and *From the Depth of Darkness* (2019), as well as a full-length collection *The Sheltering* (2022). Some of her work has been anthologized and published in various international literary journals.

Khaya enjoys dual South African and Finnish citizenship and currently lives in Finland with her husband.

You can find more of her work on her [website](#) or connect with her on [Instagram](#) @khaya.ronkainen.





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Front Page/ In This Issue

From The Lit eZine Desk

The Spirit of Summer:
This Is Country

The Spirit of Summer:
The Amaltas Tree

The Spirit of Summer:
Metamorphosis

The Spirit of Summer:

A Photo Collage

Poetry:

Emotions in Poetry

Poetry:

Anxiety in Five Acts

Poetry:

Idemeli My Best Friend

Poetry:

The Milkman Cometh

Poetry:

Escape The Egypt

Poetry:

Waking up to Thrutopia

Poetry:

Venus Fly Trap

Fiction:

The Last Flight

Fiction:

A Flower By Any Other Name

Fiction:

Pranthan

Fiction:

Life Stuck in Fast Forward

Fiction:

Angel of Earth and Angel of Sky

Insights:

The Art of Subconscious Conversation

Book Review:

We are Poetry: Lessons I Didn't Learn in a Textbook – A Review

Author Spotlight:

Two Short Poems by Arthur Turfa

Author Spotlight:

Gemini: A Contemplation of Duality and My Love for Literature

Author Spotlight

Interview: Arthur Turfa

A Writer's Life:

Sarojini Naidu

Brainteasers

Picture Prompt

Meet The Team

Coming up Next

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11 thoughts on “Lit eZine Vol 3 | p-19 | BOOK REVIEW | We are Poetry: Lessons I Didn’t Learn in a Textbook”

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SelmaMartin

July 19, 2023 at 5:38 pm



Truth. Truthful words. I know because I felt the same way after reading this book. I believe, like you, that every library should carry this book. It’s the Poets’ voice expressing a fact: You ARE poetry. Yes, we are. Thanks for this lovely article. I had joyful 🥹 tears reading your words.

Bless you Khaya. I wish you miracles. XoXo

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Khaya Ronkainen

July 22, 2023 at 10:03 pm



Thanks to you too, Selma. I’m super glad this article resonated. We Are Poetry, indeed!

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Kym Gordon Moore

July 17, 2023 at 12:19 am



Khaya, I am so delighted and honored to read your beautifully composed review of my book. You have delivered an article with perfect literary excellence and I am humbled by your generous detail in defining what “We Are Poetry: Lessons I Didn’t Learn in a Textbook” has to offer in my advocacy to use the art of poetry as a teaching tool in the fight against illiteracy, functional illiteracy, and literacy. Bless you, my friend. I am grateful. 🙏

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Manic Sylph

July 18, 2023 at 12:53 am



So glad you like it. Thank you for writing such a fabulous book, Kym!

★ Liked by [1 person](#)



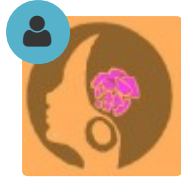
Kym Gordon Moore

July 18, 2023 at 5:56 am



Thank you so much Mona. 🙏 My repost of my review is scheduled for this week. You have a wonderful eZine and you can tell how much work you and your team put into it to create such a quality piece of work. I applaud you my new friend. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us. 😊❤️👏🙏 Enjoy the rest of your week.

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Manic Sylph

July 18, 2023 at 2:56 pm



Thank you for your words of appreciation Kym. I will pass it on to the team, I know everyone would be delighted! I am so grateful for your repost, it helps Lit eZine survive and grow. 🙏

★ Liked by [1 person](#)



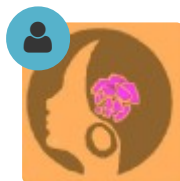
Kym Gordon Moore

July 18, 2023 at 9:35 pm



Cheers to your success Mona! 🥂 Your work speaks for itself and it will gradually grow beyond your wildest imagination my friend. Continue to forge ahead. 🙏🙏🙏

★ Liked by [1 person](#)



Manic Sylph

July 19, 2023 at 1:08 pm



Thank you so very much Kym! 😍
With my awesome team, and wonderful supporters like you, everything is possible 🙏😊
Cheers!

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Kym Gordon Moore





July 19, 2023 at 9:28 pm

I agree with you 100% Mona. You are so very welcome and success is yours for the taking. Peace & Blessings! 🥰❤️🥰

★ Liked by [1 person](#)



Khaya Ronkainen

July 18, 2023 at 5:39 pm



Hey Kym! It is my greatest pleasure. Thanks to you too for poetry, and the lessons on how it can enrich our lives. Keep writing!

★ Liked by [2 people](#)



Kym Gordon Moore

July 18, 2023 at 11:20 pm



Bless you Khaya. It's the comraderies of wonderful poets and authors like yourself, who make our lessons more robust and memorable. Thank you for all you do my sweet friend. 🥰❤️🙏 Continue to soar! 🦅

★ Liked by [2 people](#)

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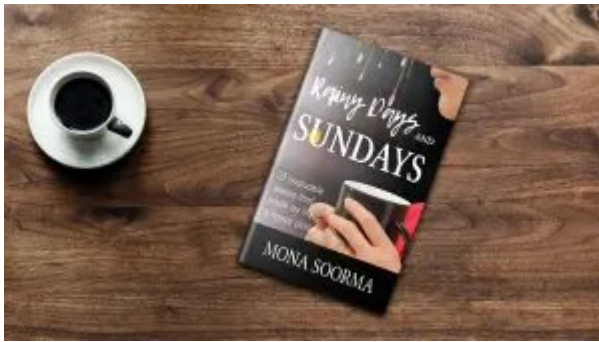


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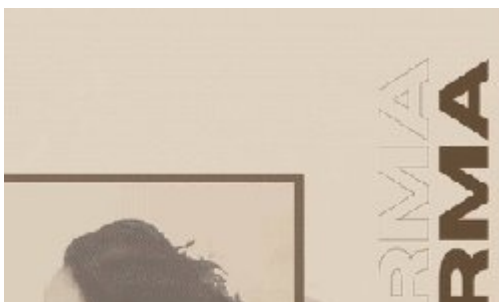


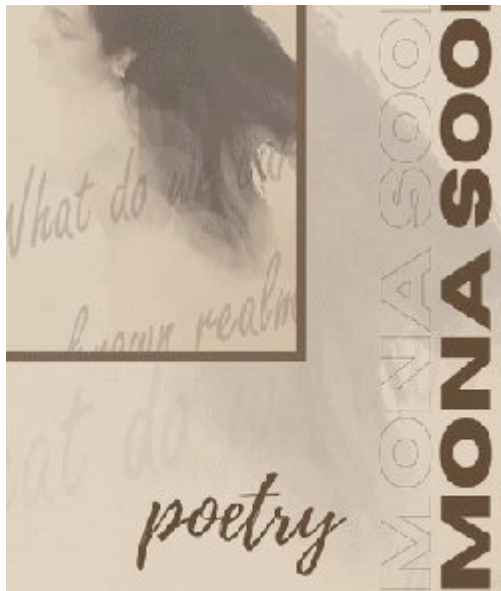
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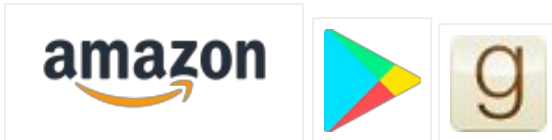
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