Selected Poetry



Selected Poetry_下载链接1_

著者:John Donne

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John Donne's love poetry is a magnetic mix of the soul singing, intellectual rigor, and the lascivious prod. Seductions abound, but go hand in hand with metaphors of science, discovery, and conquest: "License my roving hands, and let them go, / Behind, before, above, between, below. / O my America! my new-found-land, / My kingdom, safeliest when with one man manned ..." In "The Flea," the speaker even uses a revolting parasite to persuade his young woman to bed. Since the flea has bitten both of them already, he urges, why should they not commingle on a larger scale? But in one of Donne's trademark reversals, the argument fails when the woman squashes the offending insect.

"The Good Morrow" is a good deal more romantic, opening: "I wonder by my troth, what thou and I / Did, till we loved?" Lines such as "And now good morrow to our waking souls, / Which watch not one another out of fear; / For love all love of other sights controls, / And makes one little room an everywhere" have even made the poem a wedding standard. ("The Sun Rising" is another nuptial favorite.) As usual, however, the poet adds a tincture of imperfection to the vision: the persona's excuse (charming but dubious), "If ever any beauty I did see, / Which I desired, and got, 'twas but a dream of thee." Though readers might concentrate on the love songs and sonnets, John

Carey's edition of the Selected Poetry offers much more, including satires, epigrams, and Donne's brilliant holy sonnets. As rugged, brilliantly contorted, and fraught with feeling as his more diurnal poetry, they are also equally concerned with inconstancy--Donne was born a Catholic, but converted to Anglicanism in 1593. "Batter my heart, three-personed God" ends: "Take me to You, imprison me, for I / Except You' enthrall me, never shall be free, / Nor ever chaste, except You ravish me."

作者介绍:

目录: Love Elegies: Elegy 13. Love's Progress

Air [aire] And Angels

An Anatomy Of The World: The First Anniversary

The Anniversary [anniversarie]

The Apparition

The Bait

The Blossom

Break Of Day

The Broken Heart The Canonization

Community

The Computation

Confined Love

The Cross The Curse

The Dampe

The Dissolution

The Dream

The Dream (image Of Her) Early Verse Letters: The Calm

Early Verse Letters: The Storm. To Mr Christopher Brooke

Early Verse Letters: To Mr E.g.

Early Verse Letters: To Mr Rowland Woodward

Early Verse Letters: To Mr S.b. Early Verse Letters: To Mr T.w. Early Verse Letters: To Mr T.w.

Early Verse Letters: To Sir Henry Wotten

Early Verse Letters: To Sir Henry Wotton/ambassador/venice

The Ecstasy [extasie]

Elegie On Mistress Boulstred Elegy On The Lady Markham

An Elegy Upon The Death Of Mistress Bulstrode

Epigram: A Burnt Ship Epigram: A Lame Beggar Epigram: A Licentious Person Epigram: A Selfe Accuser Epigram: An Obscure Writer

Epigram: Antiquary

Epigram: Cales And Guyana

Epigram: Disinherited Epigram: Fall Of A Wall

Epigram: Klockius

Epigram: Mercurius Gallo-belgicus

Epigram: Niobe Epigram: Phyrne

Epigram: Pyramus And Thisbe

Epigram: Raderus Epigram: Ralphius

Epigram: Sir John Wingefield

Epigram: The Juggler Epigram: The Lier

Epigrams: Hero And Leander

Epitaph On Himself: To The Countess Of Bedford

Epithalamion Made At Lincolnes Inne

An Epithalamion, Or Marriage Song On Lady Elizabeth

The Expiration Farewell To Love

A Fever The Flea The Funeral A Funeral Elegy

Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward

The Good-morrow Holy Sonnet: 10 Holy Sonnet: 17 Holy Sonnet: 18 Holy Sonnet: 19 Holy Sonnet: 5

Holy Sonnet: Satire 1 Holy Sonnet: Satire 2

Holy Sonnet: Satire 3. On Religion

Holy Sonnet: Satire 4 Holy Sonnet: Satire 5 Holy Sonnets: 1

Holy Sonnets: 1 Holy Sonnets: 12 Holy Sonnets: 13 Holy Sonnets: 14 Holy Sonnets: 15 Holy Sonnets: 16 Holy Sonnets: 2 Holy Sonnets: 3 Holy Sonnets: 4

A Hymn To Christ, At The Author's Last Going Into Germany

Hymn To God My God, In My Sickness

A Hymn To God The Father

The Indifferent A Jet Ring Sent La Corona: 1

La Corona: 2. Annunciation

La Corona: 2. Annunciation
La Corona: 3. Nativity
La Corona: 4. Temple
La Corona: 5. Crucifying
La Corona: 6. Resurrection
La Corona: 7. Ascension
A Lecture Upon The Shadow

The Legacy

```
The Litany: 1. The Father
The Litany: 10. The Martyrs
The Litany: 11. The Confessors
The Litany: 12. The Virgins
The Litany: 13. The Doctors
The Litany: 14
The Litany: 15
The Litany: 16
The Litany: 17
The Litany: 18
The Litany: 19
The Litany: 2. The Son
The Litany: 20
The Litany: 21
The Litany: 22
The Litany: 23
The Litany: 24
The Litany: 25
The Litany: 26
The Litany: 27
The Litany: 28
The Litany: 3. The Holy Ghost
The Litany: 4. The Trinity
The Litany: 5. The Virgin Mary
The Litany: 6. The Angels
The Litany: 7. The Patriarchs
The Litany: 8. The Prophets
The Litany: 9. The Apostles
Love Elegies: Elegy 1. The Bracelet
Love Elegies: Elegy 10. Love's War
Love Elegies: Elegy 11. On His Mistress
Love Elegies: Elegy 14. The Comparison
Love Elegies: Elegy 15. The Autumnal
Love Elegies: Elegy 2. To His Mistress Going To Bed
Love Elegies: Elegy 3. Jealousy
Love Elegies: Elegy 4. The Anagram
Love Elegies: Elegy 5. Change
Love Elegies: Elegy 6. The Perfume
Love Elegies: Elegy 7. His Picture
Love Elegies: Elegy 8. On Sir Thomas Egerton
Love Elegies: Elegy 9
Love's Alchemy
Love's Deity
Love's Diet
Love's Elegies: Elegy 13, Love's Progress
Love's Exchange
Love's Growth
Love's Usury
Lovers' Infiniteness
The Message
Negative Love
A Nocturnal Upon St. Lucy's Day, Being The Shortest Day
The Paradox
The Primrose, Being At Mountgomery Castle, Upon The Hill ...
```

The Profiibition The Relic Resurrection, Imperfect Sappho To Philaenis Song Song The Sun Rising To E. Of D. With Six Holy Sonnets To E. Of D. With Six Holy Sonnets: 10 To E. Of D. With Six Holy Sonnets: 7 To E. Of D. With Six Holy Sonnets: 8 To E. Of D. With Six Holy Sonnets: 9 To Mrs Magdalen Herbert Of St Mary Magdalene To Mrs. M.h To Sir Edward Herbert, At Juliers To Sir Henry Goodyere To The Countess Of Bedford (2) To The Countess Of Bedford (3) To The Countess Of Bedford (4) To The Countess Of Bedford (poems About Deaths) To The Countess Of Bedford [on New Yeares Day] To The Countess Of Bedford; Begun In France But Never Perfected To The Countess Of Huntingdon To The Lady Bedford The Triple Fool Twickenham Garden The Undertaking Upon The Annunciation And Passion Falling One Day A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning A Valediction: Of My Name In The Window A Valediction: Of The Booke A Valediction: Of Weeping The Will Witchcraft By A Picture Woman's Constancy

The Progress Of The Soul [metempsychosis]

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评论

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