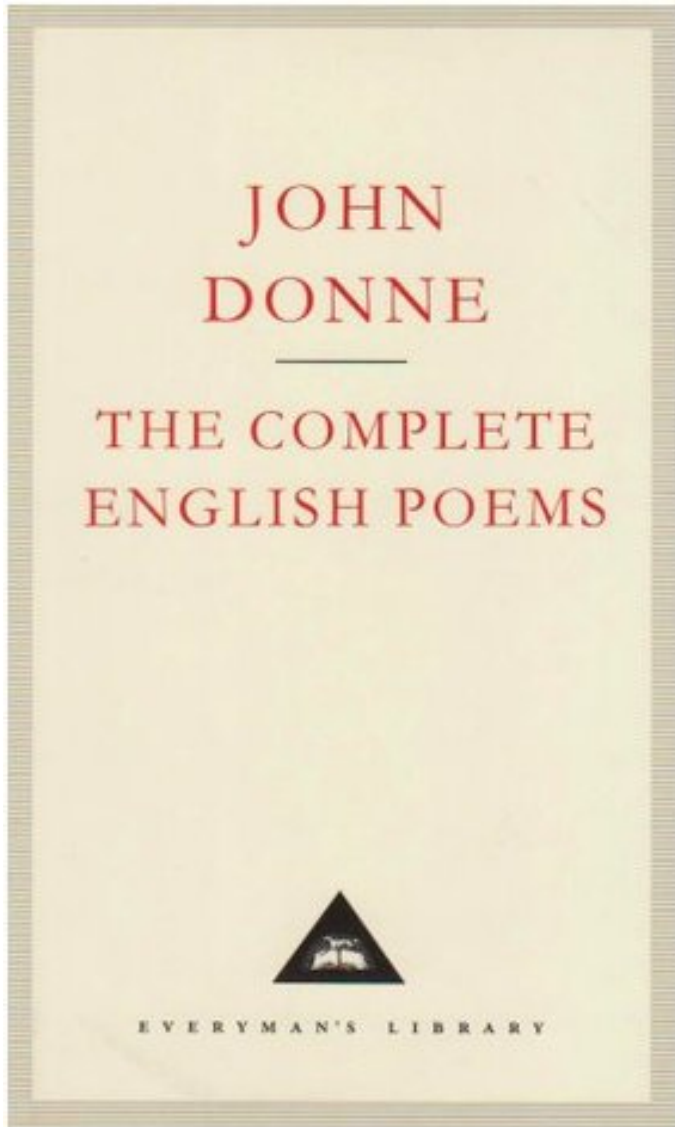

John Donne

The Complete English Poems



Title: The Complete English Poems

Author: John Donne

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Description

Contains the complete English poems of John Donne. The detailed notes explain unfamiliar words, clarify obscure references, and refine grammatical complexities. The book begins with an introduction to the poet and his times, including a bibliography of over 750 items.

Insightful reviews

Mii: This book is a great read!

Warwick: A friend of mine who's learning English has been reading sci-fi hit [To Your Scattered Bodies Go](#), and they asked me in passing why the title is the way it is: some kind of quotation? English graduate Warwick sprang into action, because this is a sonnet whose opening lines I have had by heart since the first time I read it:

At the round earths imagin'd corners, blow
Your trumpets, Angels, and arise, arise
From death, you numberlesse infinities
Of soules, and to your scattred bodies goe...

...although I forget how it goes on; something something fire shall o'erthrow. This is, please excuse my language, a *fucking brilliant* way to begin a poem – the protoscientific precision of the first line, the frenzied enjambment and repetition, the dark horrified sweep of the vision being described. Like all the best poetry, it gets memorised by accident: the lines lodge in your brain and refuse to let go. When I pulled out my copy of Donne to check it, I ended up spending more than an hour flicking through the pages here, consumed with total pleasure – he's just so intense, *utterly* obsessed with sex and *utterly* terrified of death.

The Holy Sonnets (the above is number VII) are often overlooked when people think of Donne, who tends to be associated primarily with his Songs and Sonnets (none of which, strangely enough, are true sonnets). The most anthologised by far is The Flea, which is one of those 'male poet tries to talk his way into girl's knickers' type of poems, and builds on a weirdly long tradition of erotic verse about fleas (especially popular in France, where *puce* 'flea' usually involved some pun on *puelage* 'maidenhead'). Donne's effort, though, is so technically flawless and so pitch-perfect in its mixture of careful reasoning and subterranean desperation that it does stand out:

Marke but this flea, and marke in this,
How little that which thou deny'st me is;
It suck'd me first, and now sucks thee,
And in this flea, our two bloods mingled bee;

Thou know'st that this cannot be said
A sinne, nor shame, nor loss of maidenhead,
Yet this enjoys before it wooe,
And pamper'd swells with one blood made of two
And this, alas, is more then wee would doe...

Donne is lying through his teeth, because he is not the sort of person who thinks sex is something free and easy. He *wants* to, but he can't: he just finds it all too disgusting, too animal, and it's this internal conflict which makes him so fascinating. There's one poem he writes from the point of view of Sappho writing to her female lover (and which has been called 'the first female homosexual love poem in English') where he gives free rein to his feelings of disgust for male sexuality:

Thy body is a naturall *Paradise*,
In whose selfe, unmanur'd all pleasure lies,
Nor needs *perfection*; why shouldst thou than
Admit the tillage of a harsh rough man?
Men leave behinde them that which their sin showes,
And are, as theeves trac'd, which rob when it snows.
But of our dallyance no more signes there are,
Then *fishes* leave in streames, or *Birds* in aire.

Dude, you make us sound like snails.

Oh, I haven't even talked about all the early scientific experimentation in these poems – Galileo, telescopes, microscopes ('I am a little world made cunningly / Of Elements'), astrology, biology, geology, he is so open to new knowledge and new ideas, anything to take his mind of the inevitability of his own extinction.

Everyone needs some Donne in their lives – the perfect expression of aesthetic pleasure poised over an underlying sweaty terror.

So, lovers dreame a rich and long delight
But get a winter-seeming summers night.

Destiney: I like this book because it has a very special proper language and it makes all the poems flow in such a nice way. Many of the lines in this book are famous lines and have been used in Other book before. I do recommend this book because it is really good and many of the poems in this book touch you where it is really important.

Elizabeth Pyjov: "Must I, who got here to travail thorough you, / develop your fastened subject,

'cause you are true?" -- John Donne, poem The Indifferent, p. 61 "All love is wonder; if we justly do / Account her wonderful, why no longer beautiful too?" - John Donne, Elegies, The Anagram, p. 96 "For one night's revels, silk and gold we choose, / But, in lengthy journeys, cloth, and leather-based use." -- John Donne, Elegies, The Anagram, p 96 "Likeness glues love: then if that is so thou do, / To make us like and love, needs to i modify too? / greater than they hate, I hate it, relatively allow me / enable her change, than switch as oft as she" -- John Donne, Elegy 3, The Perfume, p 98 "But once they kiss one bank, and leaving this / by no means glance back, however the subsequent financial institution do kiss, / Then are they purest; switch is the nursery / Of music, joy, existence and eternity" -- John Donne, Elegy 3, The Perfume, p 98 "If you have been good, your sturdy doth quickly decay; / and also you are rare, that takes the nice away." - John Donne, Elegy 3, The Perfume, p 100 "Here take my picture, although I bid farewell; / Thine, in my heart, the place my soul dwells, shall dwell." -- John Donne, Elegy 5, His Picture, p 100 "My brain to scorn; and Oh, love dulled with ache / was once ne'er so wise, nor good armed as disdain" -- John Donne, Elegy 6, p 101 "Though wish bred religion and love; therefore taught, I shall / As international locations do from Rome, from thy love fall." -- John Donne, Elegy 6, p 101 "No spring, nor summer season attractiveness hath such grace, / As i've got noticeable in a single autumnal face." -- John Donne, Elegy 9, The Autumnal, p 105 "When you're gone, and cause long gone with you, / Then myth is queen and soul, and all" -- John Donne, The Dream, p 106 "But I forgive; repent thee sincere man: / Gold is restorative, restoration it then." -- John Donne, The Bracelet, p 110 "Since she needs to go, and that i needs to mourn, come night, / Environ me with darkness, when I write" -- John Donne, His Parting from Her, p 110 "That i could develop enamored in your mind, / whilst my very own ideas I there mirrored find. / For this to the relaxation of my pricey I vow, / My deeds shall nonetheless be what my phrases are now." - John Donne, poem Julia, p 113 "Thought I, yet one had breathed purest air, / And needs to she wishes be fake simply because she's fair? / Is it your beauty's mark, or of your youth, / Or your perfection, to not learn truth?" -- John Donne, Elegy 15, p 116 "Sooner that rivers will run back, or Thames / With ribs of ice in June may bind his streams, / Or Nature, whose power the area endures, / may switch her course, ahead of you modify yours." -- John Donne, Elegy 15, p 117 "Cursed may well he be, that so our love hath slain, / And wander on our earth, wretched as Cain, / Wretched as he, and never deserve least pity; / In plaguing him, allow distress be witty." -- John Donne, Elegy 115, p 117 "Now i've got cursed, allow us to our love revive; / In me the flame used to be by no means extra alive; / i'll start back to courtroom and praise, / And in that excitement delay the fast days / Of my life's lease; like painters that do take / Delight, now not in made work, yet whilst they make; / i'll renew these times, whilst first I observed / Love on your eyes, that gave my tongue the legislations / to love what you liked; and at mask and performs / Commend the self-same actors, a similar ways; / Ask the way you did, and infrequently with motive / Of being officious, be impertinent; / All which have been such delicate pastimes, as in those / Love used to be subtly caught, as a disease; / yet being received it's a treasure sweet, / Which to outlined is more durable than to get: / And ought now not be profaned in both part, / For even though 'tis obtained by means of chance, 'tis saved via art." - John Donne, Elegies, p 118 "Temper, O reasonable love, love's impetuous rage / Be my precise mistress still, now not my feigned page" - John Donne, Elegies, p 118 "Richly clothed apes, are known as apes, and as quickly / Eclipsed as shiny we name the moon the moon" -- John Donne, On his Mistress, p 119 "When i'm gone, dream me a few happiness" -- John Donne, On his Mistress, p 119 #poem "The heavens have a good time in motion, why should still I / Abjure my quite a bit enjoyed variety, / and never with many formative years and

love divide? / excitement is none, if now not diversified" -- John Donne, Variety, p one hundred twenty "All issues do willingly in swap pride / The fruitful mom of our appetite: / Rivers the clearer and extra enjoyable are, / the place their reasonable spreading streams run large and far" - John Donne, Variety, p 120 "The legislation is hard, and shall no longer have my voice. / The final I observed in all extremes is fair, / And holds me within the sun-beams of her hair" - John Donne, Variety, p 120 "How chuffed have been our sires in historic time, / Who held plurality of affection no crime!" - John Donne, Variety, p 120 "Our liberty's reversed, our charter's long gone / And we made servants to opinion" - John Donne, Variety, p 121 "Only a few few robust in themselves and loose / continue the seeds of historic liberty" - John Donne, Variety, p 121 "Perfection is in unity: want / One girl first, after which something in her." - John Donne, Variety, p 122 #17thcentury "Come, Madam, come, all leisure my powers defy, / till I labour, I in labour lie" - John Donne, Elegy 19, p 124 "How blessed am I during this getting to know thee! / to go into into those bonds, is to be free" - John Donne, Elegy 19, p 125 "Yea they're deaths, is't no longer all one to fly / Into one other world, as 'tis to die?" - John Donne, poem Love's War, p 126 "Thine hands imprison me, and mine fingers thee, / Thy center thy ransom is, take brain for me" - John Donne, Love's War, p 127 #love #poem #17thcenturyEnglish "Other males conflict that they their leisure may well gain, / yet we'll relaxation that we might struggle again" - John Donne, Love's War, p 127 "These wars the ignorant, those th' skilled love, / There we're consistently under, the following above" - John Donne, Love's Wars, p 127 "Thoughts, my mind's creatures, frequently are with thee, / yet I, their maker, wish their liberty. / in simple terms thine image, in my middle doth sit, / yet that's wax, and fires environ it. / My fires have driven, thine have drawn it hence; / and i'm robbed of picture, heart, and sense. / Dwells with me nonetheless mine irksome memory, / Which, either to keep, and lose, grieves equally. / That tells me how reasonable thou art; thou paintings so fair, / As gods, while gods to thee I do compare." -- John Donne, Sappho to Philaenis, p 127 "For, if we justly name each one foolish guy / a bit world, what lets name then then?" -- John Donne, Sappho to Philaenis, p 128 "And among us all sweetness could be had; / All, all that Nature yields, or paintings can add." -- John Donne, Sappho to Philaenis, p 128 "O treatment this loving madness, and restoration / Me to me; thee, my half, my all, my more" -- John Donne, Sappho to Philaenis, p 129 "Come happy from thence, pass gladder than you came, / this present day wear perfection, and a woman's name" -- John Done, poem, p 133 "Love and braveness by no means shall decline, / Make the entire year, thy day, O Valentine" -- John Donne, poem, p 136 "Thy flattering picture, Phryne, is like thee, / purely in this, that you just either painted be." -- John Donne, Epigrams, p. 151 "Shall I go away all this consistent company, / And stick with headlong, wild doubtful thee?" -- John Donne, Satire, p. 155 "Oh we allow, / sturdy works as good, yet out of style now." -- John Donne, Satires, p. a hundred and sixty

Niraj: Ok, so i did not learn each poem during this powerful anthology, yet did get in the course of the overwhelming majority of them. and browse way more of him than I final encountered in A-Level English. i like the 2 contrasting facets of Donne's life: the younger libertine, poetry captivated with proving masculinity and bedding women, of smart conceits and wit, opposed to the older Donne, worldly-wise, together with his meditations on lifestyles and Death. it really is an apt precis of the run of existence all of us move through, and Donne's use of wit and shrewd permanent conceits fairly is going immediately to my soul. a truly stunning booklet to be within the corporation of.

Ryan Chapman: I in simple terms quite did a detailed analyzing of some poems for work, but, besides my very own study at the metaphysical poets, gave me an appreciation for this college of poetry. Donne's paintings is tough, certainly. i used to be baffled by way of A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning the 1st couple times. Now i will be able to see what a wealthy poem it is, with dizzyingly recursive metaphors and a fantastically loaded conceit. i have by no means been a great poetry reader, and this has helped me sharpen my serious lens. move Donne go!

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