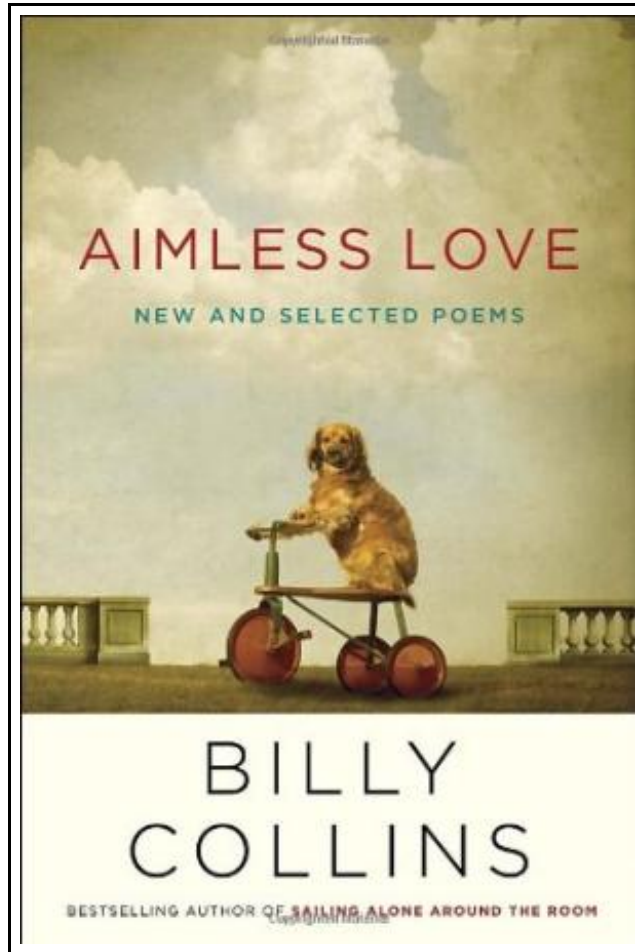


Aimless Love: New and Selected Poems



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Reviews

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AIMLESS LOVE: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS



Random House. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. Two-term U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins here gives us his first volume of new and selected poems in 12 years, combining 50 previously unpublished poems with generous selections from his four previous books, *Nine Horses*, *The Trouble with Poetry*, *Ballistics*, and *Horoscopes for the Dead*. Collins's unmistakable voice, which brings together plain speech with imaginative surprise, reminds us how he has managed to enrich the tapestry of contemporary poetry and greatly expand its audience. By turns playful, ironic, and serious, Collins's poetry begins in Kansas and ends in Oz, capturing the nuances of everyday life while leading the reader into places of inspired wonder. "Collins, or the speaker in his poems, watches himself with helpless bemusement as he lives 'a life of continual self-expression, / jotting down little things.' Obsessive 'noticing' gets him into all sorts of trouble, as recounted so wryly, so tenderly in 'Aimless Love,' the poem that gives this vital and shrewdly provocative volume its title and in which the speaker records his sequential ardor for a wren, a mouse, and a bar of soap. He nimbly mixes the timeless sun, loneliness with the fidgety, digital now. Some poems are funny from the opening gambit to the closing flourish. But Collins' droll wit is often a diversionary tactic, so that when he strikes you with the hard edge of his darker visions, you reel." Booklist 256.



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