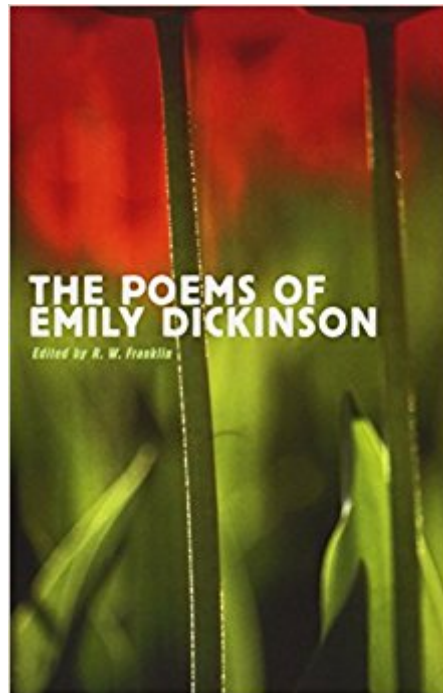




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# The Poems Of Emily Dickinson: Reading Edition



## Synopsis

Emily Dickinson, poet of the interior life, imagined words/swords, hurling barbed syllables/piercing. Nothing about her adult appearance or habitation revealed such a militant soul. Only poems, written quietly in a room of her own, often hand-stitched in small volumes, then hidden in a drawer, revealed her true self. She did not live in time but in universals--an acute, sensitive nature reaching out boldly from self-referral to a wider, imagined world. Dickinson died without fame; only a few poems were published in her lifetime. Her legacy was later rescued from her desk--an astonishing body of work, much of which has since appeared in piecemeal editions, sometimes with words altered by editors or publishers according to the fashion of the day. Now Ralph Franklin, the foremost scholar of Dickinson's manuscripts, has prepared an authoritative one-volume edition of all extant poems by Emily Dickinson--1,789 poems in all, the largest number ever assembled. This reading edition derives from his three-volume work, *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Variorum Edition* (1998), which contains approximately 2,500 sources for the poems. In this one-volume edition, Franklin offers a single reading of each poem--usually the latest version of the entire poem--rendered with Dickinson's spelling, punctuation, and capitalization intact. *The Poems of Emily Dickinson: Reading Edition* is a milestone in American literary scholarship and an indispensable addition to the personal library of poetry lovers everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Emily Dickinson proved that brevity can be beautiful. Only now is her complete oeuvre--all 1,775

poems--available in its original form, uncorrupted by editorial revision, in one volume. Thomas H. Johnson, a longtime Dickinson scholar, arranged the poems in chronological order as far as could be ascertained (the dates for more than 100 are unknown). This organization allows a wide-angle view of Dickinson's poetic development, from the sometimes-clunky rhyme schemes of her juvenilia, including valentines she wrote in the early 1850s, to the gloomy, hell-obsessed writings from her last years. Quite a difference from requisite Dickinson entries in literary anthologies: "There's a certain Slant of light," "Wild Nights--Wild Nights!" and "I taste a liquor never brewed." The book was compiled from Thomas H. Johnson's hard-to-find variorum from 1955. While some explanatory notes would have been helpful, it's a prodigious collection, showcasing Dickinson's intractable obsession with nature, including death. Poem 1732, which alludes to the deaths of her father and a onetime suitor, illustrates her talent: My life closed twice before its close; It yet remains to see If Immortality unveil A third event to me, So huge, so hopeless to conceive As these that twice befell. Parting is all we know of heaven, And all we need of hell. The musicality of her punctuation and the outright elegance of her style--akin to Christina Rossetti's hymns, although not nearly so religious--rescue the poems from their occasional abstruseness. The Complete Poems is especially refreshing because Dickinson didn't write for publication; only 11 of her verses appeared in magazines during her lifetime, and she had long-resigned herself to anonymity, or a "Barefoot-Bank," as she phrased it. This is the perfect volume for readers wishing to explore the works of one of America's first poets. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Complete is the keyword here as this is the only edition currently available that contains all of Dickinson's poems. The works were originally gathered by editor Johnson and published in a three-volume set in 1955. Essential for academic and public libraries. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A "complete edition" of the poems, citing but not including the many variants. The result is a "standard" text for use. The three-volume variorum edition provides alternative readings for those so inclined to scholarship and "arguing" with the editor's choices. The more casual reader should be happy with this version, which replicates Dickinson's preferences for spellings, punctuation, and above all spacing between words or ideas. (Get used to "opon," used repeatedly and heard as her phonetic reading of "upon," perhaps an overinterpretation.) Seeing the poems in some sort of chronological order allows for some stylistic study, although Dickinson did not usually save her

"pre-final" drafts (or wrote later poems on a host of paper types). To be read in smaller doses; the better poems and increasing maturity stand out more effectively this way.

This is not a complete edition of her poems. And they have been "tidied" up so you don't get them the way she wrote them.

I've been reading Emily Dickinson all of my life, off and on. I decided at age 60, to read her Complete Poems & discovered a much different persona emerged when I read the lesser known poems along side the immortal ones. Reading only her most majestic poems gave her an almost untouchable aura. She was damn near perfect when read selectively, but in reading her less stellar efforts, a more human poet emerged & a more engaging one at that. Rating poets with stars is as silly as giving chocolate hearts to tin men, but how could I give any less than five to this angelic woman. The odd thing is, that this more human poet with frailties that the Complete Poems showed me, seems even more divine now. As for her poetics, she knew how to play slightly off key when she wanted to & it makes her work, the work of an original. Her erotic poems, though few, (Wild Nights!) are best in class. Thanks you Emily Dickinson, for your letter to the world.

Some of her work is amazing, depending on my mood. Nice to have all in one book. Kind of big and bulky. Excellent condition for a used book. Interesting to get to her works not as famous. I find myself wondering if she actually wrote all of these works. Just me, I suppose.

Just take your time and read them all, a few at a time, don't rush or push or quit, learning as best you can the landscape of thought and reflection natural to her time in Western Massachusetts that generated her inner meditations and the way these were grounded in the life everyone about her lived, the two lives she lived, the natural one in which she was embedded and the inner one her own questioning, assessing, exploring, sometimes doubting world.

This is NOT the Johnson edition, but a bait and switch version. Most dashes removed (a few left for character?!), some titles added and organized BY THEME. It is an appalling abomination and NOT Dickinson's poetry. , why not simply rob me at gunpoint?

Even though I am not able to fully understand or digest the depth the words express, I am still enjoying the rymth. I hope I will be able to enjoy the poems to another level.

I have several copies of Dickinson's poetry, but this is my favorite version. It is organized chronologically (instead of by topic), and it does not exclude any stanzas or whole poems. I am tempted to buy it again just in case something happens to my current copy.

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