



The Coral Sea

Patti Smith

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In linked pieces Patti Smith tells the story of a man on a journey to see the Southern Cross, who is reflecting on his life and fighting the illness that is consuming him. Metaphoric and dreamy, this tale of transformation arises from Smith's knowledge of Mapplethorpe as a young man and as a mature artist, his close relationship with his patron and friend, Sam Wagstaff, and his years surviving AIDS and his ascent into death. Rich in detail, it is filled with references to Mapplethorpe's work and shows the man beneath the persona. Set against photographs by Mapplethorpe, the work emerges as a hymn, a prayer, a fable wishing him Godspeed on his latest journey.

"She was once our savage Rimbaud, but suffering has turned her into our St. John of the Cross, a mystic full of compassion."--Edmund White

The Coral Sea Details

Date : Published June 17th 1997 by W. W. Norton Company (first published 1996)

ISBN : 9780393316261

Author : Patti Smith

Format : Paperback 72 pages

Genre : Poetry, Music, Art, Nonfiction, Autobiography, Memoir, Photography, Literature, American

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From Reader Review The Coral Sea for online ebook

Agustina says

I really like this book specially after reading Just kids and listen to her music.

PorshaJo says

Review to come.

Freesiab (Bookish Review) says

This collection of poetry is deeply moving, at times too intimate and every word meaningful. Such a treasure to have a friend like this and such a treasure to the rest of the world that she shares her gift of writing. I look forward to reading more.

Tammy says

Absolutely beautiful.

I think, having recently read Just Kids and knowing a little about her story and Robert's it was even more poignant.

I borrowed this book from the library, but will be buying several copies - one for myself and a few for gifts. Ms. Smith's writing consistently liquefies me.

For example, from The Pedestal (pg. 56) Such tears filled him with revulsion. No one could enter a soul composed of tears, for one would surely drown.

I recommend this without reservation to anyone who enjoys words that paint pictures.

heartful says

Patti is a poet.

Johanna says

There is no arguing with the fact that Patti Smith can write beautifully. The Coral Sea was a wonderful

observation of grief and sickness, but some parts just went over my head. It really is an amazing piece of art, I just didn't understand all of it.

Cheryl Mценaney says

Exceptionally beautiful.

Manuel Alberto Vieira says

A perda enquanto temperatura. Enquanto não apenas frio. Enquanto coisa quente, na verdade. Pelo menos, na mestria humanista de Patti Smith.

Toolshed says

What a touching way to cope with the parting of a beloved person. If I knew more about the Mapplethorpe's background, I think I would understand some of the references better but still, those were some amazing prose poems. Everyone who reads this, I presume, secretly wishes that they will lead such a life, and that they will touch other people's lives in such a way, that they will one day become the subjects of a similarly moving and sensitive literary homage.

Rosemary Nissen-Wade says

The title piece, a long prose poem, was written in 1996 after the death of Patti Smith's dear friend, the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. This 2012 reissue includes some other poems for him, and a preface he asked her to write for his book, *Flowers*.

It's the most exquisite and moving work. The use of language is extraordinary — heightened and unusual, yet at the same time clear and straightforward. A paradox!

There is nothing self-consciously writerly about it; rather she is making art, and does so by finding the perfect words to convey her friend's last journey, and something of his soul.

A slim volume, beautifully produced, it includes some of his photos and some of her own.

It's unique. It's a treasure; a work of great beauty.

I can see myself returning to it often.

She recounts that he asked her, when he was dying, to write their story. She eventually did: the acclaimed memoir, *Just Kids* — but it took her a long time to be able to do it. Meanwhile she wrote *The Coral Sea*.

Antonia says

I read "Just Kids", now I need more Patti.

Update: I finished reading "The coral sea" a few days ago. I read it in spanish. I was beautiful and poetic, but hardly a story.

It's not like I expected it to be one, but it surprised me for the best how each chapter was a beautiful piece of art in itself.

You could read them separately and you would still get the most inspired and inspiring images.

I reacomend it as a poetry book, not a follow up to "We were kids" (Pattis Smith's previously released book on her relationship with late photographer Robert Mapplethorpe).

Cecilia De Paula says

"Soñó. Durmió. No soñó en absoluto. En cambio, se adueñó de él una distante sensación de amor. Un campo de ojos que se mecían y se abrían cual bulbos. Y después nada. Nada en el jardín que llegaba hasta el mar. Salvo una flor de uno de aquellos bulbos. Un tulipán singular. Largo, solo y negro como una mancha en el sol."

Linda says

This is a most beautiful book, perfect in its own way, Patti Smith's poetic elegy for her friend, onetime lover and soulmate Robert Mapplethorpe, interspersed with a selection of his photographs, like meditations. As a writer, I'm in awe. The prologue sets the tone and the scene, with Morpheus, 'from a place apart' regarding his charge - 'a young man asleep within the cloth of a voyage, which is turning, ever so slowly, even as the widening skirt of an ecstatic.'

Duane says

"When he passed away I could not weep so I wrote. Then I took the pages and set them away. Here are those pages, my farewell to my friend, my adventure, my unfettered joy".

A reflection on the life of her friend Robert Mapplethorpe, written in poetic prose by the great Patti Smith, one of the most diversely talented women in the world today.

Nadin says

World-enraptured, most disconsolate prose poems.
