



Your Family, Your Body

Malika Booker , Sharon Olds , Warsan Shire

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Inspired by Penguin's enormously successful '60s series of the same name, the Penguin Modern Poets are succinct, collectible, lovingly-assembled guides to the richness and diversity of contemporary poetry, from the UK, America and beyond. Every volume brings together representative selections from the work of three poets now writing, allowing the seasoned poetry fan and the curious reader alike to encounter our most exciting new voices.

Volume 3, *Your Family, Your Body*, features the work of Malika Booker, the Guyanese-British writer and performer behind London- and Chicago-based collective Malika's Kitchen; the Pulitzer Prize-winning Sharon Olds, one of America's most brilliant, beloved and candid voices; and Warsan Shire, the award-winning poet and first ever Young Poetry Laureate of London who also lent her words to Beyoncé's visual album *Lemonade*.

Your Family, Your Body Details

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Author : Malika Booker , Sharon Olds , Warsan Shire

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From Reader Review Your Family, Your Body for online ebook

Janit says

As a woman, this book speaks to me on another level. So much emotions.

Laura Holroyd says

I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that I thoroughly detested the poetry of Sharon Olds. I never wanted to read a poem about the Pope's penis and now that I have I wish that I hadn't. I'd suggest just avoiding her part of the book because Malika Booker and Warsan Shire are awesome and it's worth getting the book for them.

Callum McAllister says

Really enjoying this series so far and this one was probably my favourite so far. Obviously, Warsan Shire is incredible but I also liked Sharon Olds quite a bit. I thought Malika Booker was good but her stuff didn't stick with me as much - but that's probably not a reflection on her since I read her poems in the middle of the night when I was basically dead to the world and to literature.

Stephen Wood says

Consistently great, making it the best of the Modern Poets run so far. Sharon Olds' blending of the profane and the profound is wonderful, and Warsan Shire wrenches beauty from brutality.

Gemma says

This series is such a nice idea and I'm definitely going to be picking the others up at some point. Each poet has such a strong and individual voice but they each compliment each other well.

Elke says

This was an interesting combo! As i had expected, i loved the pieces by Warsan Shire a lot more but it was good to read outside of my comfort zone too! And i liked the theme of body/family. I think penguin books like this are a good way of getting to know poets and seeing if you want to get more of their work.

In Love and in War

To my daughter I will say

*when the men come,
set yourself on fire.*

- Warsan Shire

Roman Clodia says

What a fabulous idea this series is! Taster selections of contemporary poets in affordable volumes. Here we have three female poets from different cultural backgrounds writing about what connects us to our bodies and to other people (mothers, lovers, husbands, children), and, shockingly, how bodies are abused and horror embodied (female genital mutilation, rape, exile and displacement).

Of the three poets here, Olds is probably the best known and most conventional. Booker captures the rhythms of her African/Caribbean heritage and writes of the strength that comes from pain, grief and something near hate, though not without a sly, wry humour: *'I cutting it off if you lose your mind. / Don't think it. And if you do, don't sleep'*.

Somalian-British Shire is the rawest and, perhaps, most exciting: she's at her best in the prose-poetry of exile (*'no-one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark'*), or prejudice (*'I hear them say "go home", I hear them say "fucking immigrants"...All I can say is, I was once like you... and now my home is the mouth of a shark, now my home is the barrel of a gun. I'll see you on the other side'*) or the stark, shocking *'To my daughters I will say / when the men come / set yourself on fire'*.

If you're interested in what contemporary poetry can be and do, this is a fine taster.

Review from an ARC via Amazon Vine

Anna says

Must be tough being in a poetry collection with Warsan Shire.

Jokes beside, I did really enjoy almost every poem, and every poet was reaaally good. The collections binding theme was culture/family/sexuality and despite all 3 poets having a different style, it worked really well.

Alice Lippart says

A wonderful collection of work from three authors with distinct voices and something to say. Beautiful.

Natasha says

Powerful stuff. I strongly identify with Malika Booker's poetry talking about a love/hate relationship with your own kin. It really stuck with me all day.

Ely says

I desperately need to own everything by Warsan Shire now.

Claudia says

Malika Booker: ****

Sharon Olds: ****

Warsan Shire: *****

Kamilla says

Honestly, I read this for Warsan's work and was not disappointed. Beautiful prose and hard-hitting. I was challenged, moved, disgusted and so happy to be reading one of my favourite modern poets. This is a great collection. And "your grandfather's hands" was probably my favourite of the bunch.

Katrine Solvaag says

A must read for any woman who loves poetry.

Munira says

Warsan Shire's poetry is incredible. I have no words other words to describe it.
