



# Cries of the Spirit: More Than 300 Poems in Celebration of Women's Spirituality

*Marilyn Sewell (Editor)*

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**Cries of the Spirit: More Than 300 Poems in Celebration of Women's Spirituality** Marilyn Sewell (Editor)

Brimming over with the inspirational words and thoughts of some of our finest writers, *Cries of the Spirit* is a beautiful sourcebook of poetry and prose in praise of life and all that it entails. Here women's voices fill the age-old silence about matters central to their experience—from menstruation, sexual intimacy, and childbirth to caretaking, household rituals, and death. These writings represent a healing vision of the sacred that emerges from the particular consciousness of women—a vision that partakes of the world of earth and flesh. With contributions by Maya Angelou, Julia Alvarez, Margaret Atwood, Hildegard of Bingen, Lucille Clifton, Annie Dillard, Joy Harjo, Erica Jong, Denise Levertov, Audre Lorde, Kathleen Norris, Marge Piercy, Starhawk, Eudora Welty, Alice Walker, and others.

## Cries of the Spirit: More Than 300 Poems in Celebration of Women's Spirituality Details

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# From Reader Review Cries of the Spirit: More Than 300 Poems in Celebration of Women's Spirituality for online ebook

## Kathy says

This is not a read cover to cover book. It is a book that I return to again and again as I find myself being drawn to a particular poet or source of inspiration. Contributors to this collection of poems include Susan Griffin, Margaret Atwood, Nikki Giovanni, Anne Sexton and Alice Walker. Divided into sections including Owning Self, Death and Lesser Losses and Re-Mything. Women's voices "sing out" diversity, healing and the sacredness of the ordinary. These words offer comfort, compassion and insight in the extraordinary range of remarkable writers.

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## Eve says

I first bought this volume in the early 2000s, and back then I never read it straight through but just dipped in and out. I still had some bookmarks from that time where I'd mark poems I especially liked. Honestly my favorites after reading the whole book are mostly the same, though there's one with a bit of a clever, snarky ending that I don't appreciate as much as I did in my 20s.

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## Donna says

This is a book of poetry. Poetry expressing all that is sacred about life; thus everything there is about life. It is a compilation of women authors' myriad thoughts and feelings on all aspects of life as it effects woman. There are many, here is one:

Prayer for a Tenspeed Heart by Barbara Hendryson

Let the fire of my body  
propel and warm me  
and let each darkness  
reveal its plenitude.

Let the hills  
flatten under my wheels  
and let the eloquent curves  
yield up their good surprise.

Let my heart be obstinate  
when I need to climb  
and let my lowliest gears  
restrain my spinning down.

Let there be flatland, too,  
and into that glittering place  
let me stretch with the heart of a lover,

at full speed, blind and intent.

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### **Erica says**

Wonderful poetry anthology! Most useful, in my mind, is a subject index with everything from the very specific -- masectomy, miscarriage, Immaculate Conception -- to the vastly broad -- self-identity, poverty, peace. I return to this quite often, along with its companion volume of sorts, Claiming the Spirit Within.

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### **Ellen Keener says**

One of my most treasured books. Met her at Fountain St.

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### **Brittany says**

This is an amazing collection of poetry! There's so much I could say but don't have the time. I highly recommend though.

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### **Winter Sophia Rose says**

Inspiring, Moving, Encouraging, Enlightening & Priceless! A Powerful Read! I Loved It!

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### **Lis says**

What I have read so far makes me want to read more. Wonderful collection of women authors and poems. Love that they are organized thematically.

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### **Annie says**

this anthology was gifted to me by my sister tracy after she read it in a college course. though i was only 13 the first time i read selected poems, the anthology remains one of my favorites.

sewell is fearless in confronting issues surrounding women's lives. from the physical (the ravages upon the female body over time), to the mental (the discipline and determination it takes to keep a family together), to the spiritual (the gift of a long love at the end of life), this truly is a celebration of womanhood. her selections walk you through first love, pregnancy, miscarriage, abortion, divorce, death, and -- lust. i feel very complete, somehow, each time i finish.

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## **Marjorie Jensen says**

This diverse collection of poems by women introduced me to writers I hadn't read before as well as reminded me of past moments of reading poetry. The words were familiar or startling--sometimes both at the same time. I felt a strong kinship with the editor, Marilyn Sewell, because I too have collected spiritual verses. And her love for the work and the poets in this book mirrored my love for the work and poets in my book. The poetry inspired me to think about, and feel, the role of women in divinity, love, universality, worship, and change. I didn't connect with all the poems, but I found a good number of profound connections. Finishing this book was a great way to begin my summer solstice.

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## **Kitty says**

A collection of poems by women published in 1991.

Themes:

Mothering, Death and lesser losses.

Songs of Brokenness and Alienation

The Will Toward the Good: How does change come? Poems of witness and deed.

The spirit and the Flesh are One  
(the hairshirts of yore have become the exercise bikes of today. )

The Unity of All That Is: the lack of separation of the mystic tradition.

Images of the Divine

Re-Mything: We are defined by our stories.

The Word : power of language in speaking truth, giving courage. Naming carries weight and definition. concepts shift.

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## **Kelli Pearson says**

Beautiful poems written by contemporary women, about women's experience, for other women. I expected this to be more about spiritual experience, but really it's broadly about all the many ways women interact with their world and the people around them. Poetry sometimes makes me restless, but this is one book I could come back to again and again and not get tired of it. I hear there are sequels also by Marilyn Sewell

and I'd be interested in checking them out as well.

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### **Nancy says**

This has been a very worthwhile read with poetry and excerpts from prose written by well-known female writers. I marked lines and pieces I liked throughout the book as when Eudora Welty commented about her mother's feelings about her chosen career: ". . . I think she was relieved when I chose to be a writer of stories, for she thought writing was safe." (p. 76) Mary Caroline Richards writes: "Love is not a doctrine, Peace is not an international agreement. Love and Peace are beings who live as possibilities in us." (p. 59) Perhaps of all the writers included though, I was most inspired by Alice Walker. Her little poem, "Goodnight, Willie Lee, I'll See You in the Morning" (pp 114-15) about the healing that comes from forgiveness is wonderful and the excerpt included from "The Color Purple" (pp 256-57) where Shug explains who God is reminds me that this is a book I need to search out and read. I've seen the movie, but never read her book. I marked so many places in "Cries Of The Spirit," I'll definitely be referring to it again and again. I recommend it to all believers in a higher power.

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### **Ellen says**

This is truly my favorite compilation of poetry. This is a book I would take with me if I were to move out to the mountains and become a goat lady....

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### **Karyn says**

Fantastic collection of poetry--don't be fooled by the sappy title. I found this book on a clearance shelf in college, and it's one of the ten books I'd never part with. I find a new poem to love every time I open the book.

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