

My Wicked Wicked Ways: Poems (Vintage Contemporaries)

By Sandra Cisneros

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In this beautiful collection of poems, remarkable for their plainspoken radiance, the bestselling author of *The House on Mango* embraces her first passion—verse. With lines both comic and sad, Sandra Cisneros deftly—and dazzlingly—explores the human experience. For those familiar with Cisneros only from her acclaimed fiction, *My Wicked Wicked Ways* presents her in an entirely new light. And for readers everywhere, here is a showcase of one of our most powerful writers at her lyrical best.

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My Wicked Wicked Ways: Poems (Vintage Contemporaries) By Sandra Cisneros Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #68795 in Books
- Published on: 2015-04-28
- Released on: 2015-04-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .40" w x 5.20" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 128 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
This collection reveals the same affinity for distilled phrasing and surprise, both in language and dramatic development, found in Cisneros's volumes of short stories, Woman Hollering Creek and The House on Mango Street . For a glimpse of it, see the poem "Josie Bliss": "a tropical dream / of Wednesdays / a bitter sorrow / like the salt / between the breasts." Of the book's four parts, the first two immerse the reader in the Chicana homefront, including the poet's own place in it, presumably the San Antonio familiar from her prose work. The remaining two parts leave the barrio behind, as the author's world becomes more cosmopolitan and still more personal. Here Cisneros reflects on herself and her men, on how she treats them and they her. Although some poems in the last sections are excellent--"No Mercy," with its air of a prosecutor's brief, is splendid--as a love poet, Cisneros attitudinizes too much and uses her tight style more to ration her candor than to impel images. Even so, a disconcerting degree of sentimentality somehow gets through ("I forget the reasons, but I loved you once, / remember?"), along with some enervated deadpan humor: "I've learned two things. / To let go / clean as kite string. / And to never wash a man's clothes. / These are my rules."
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Review
“Not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“All poets would do well to follow the example of Sandra Cisneros, who takes no prisoners and has not made a single compromise in her language.” — Barbara Kingsolver, *Los Angeles Times*

“Cisneros is a writer for all people.” —*USA Today*

“Here the young voice of Esperanza of *The House on Mango Street* merges with that of the grown woman/poet. *My Wicked Wicked Ways* is a kind of international graffiti, where the poet—bold and insistent—puts her mark on those traveled places on the map and in the heart.” —Cherríe Moraga

“A writer of power and eloquence and great lyrical beauty.” —*The Washington Post Book World*

“[Cisneros’] work is sensitive, alert, nuanceful. It is rich with music and picture.” — Gwendolyn Brooks

From the Inside Flap
Hailed as "not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one" (The New York Times Book Review), Sandra Cisneros has firmly established herself as an author of electrifying talent. Here are verses, comic and sad, radiantly pure and plainspoken, that reveal why her stories have been praised for their precision and musicality of language.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Graham:

This My Wicked Wicked Ways: Poems (Vintage Contemporaries) book is just not ordinary book, you have it

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