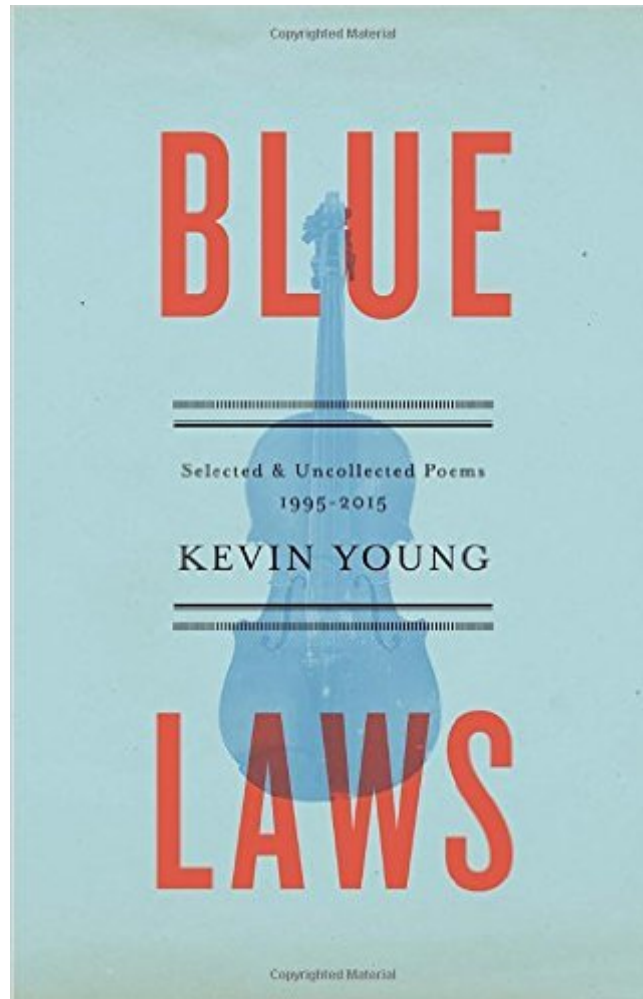


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# Blue Laws: Selected And Uncollected Poems, 1995-2015



## Synopsis

A rich and lively gathering of highlights from the first twenty years of an extraordinary career, interspersed with "B sides" and "bonus tracks" from this prolific and widely acclaimed poet. *Blue Laws* gathers poems written over the past two decades, drawing from all nine of Kevin Young's previously published books of poetry and including a number of uncollected, often unpublished, poems. From his stunning lyric debut (*Most Way Home*, 1995) and the amazing "double album" life of Jean-Michel Basquiat (2001, "remixed" for Knopf in 2005), through his brokenhearted *Jelly Roll: A Blues* (2003) and his recent forays into adult grief and the joys of birth in *Dear Darkness* (2008) and *Book of Hours* (2014), this collection provides a grand tour of a poet whose personal poems and political poems are equally riveting. Together with wonderful outtakes and previously unseen blues, the profoundly felt poems here of family, Southern food, and loss are of a piece with the depth of personal sensibility and humanity found in his *Ardency: A Chronicle of the Amistad Rebels* or bold sequences such as "The Ballad of Jim Crow" and a new "Homage to Phillis Wheatley."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For those of us who love poetry, this book will be a great addition to your library. It is a compendium of culture with tributes to a variety of genres; music, literature, poetry and art. Young writes about Jean-Michel Basquiat, Billie Holiday, Langston Hughes, Miles Davis and Grace Jones. These are wonderful tributes and demonstrates masterfully the contributions of black culture and its unique

voice. As is true with most poets, Young loves words and word play. His poem, //Errata// is a fun excursion in spoonerisms. //Blue Laws// is a collection from over two decades of Kevin Young's writing life including previously published poems and some uncollected until this volume. One would certainly get their money's worth in this large collection. It is a handsome volume and would make a great gift. Kevin Young has written ten books of poetry. The poems are also a whole lot of playful fun. The poet has a keen sense of humor. It was wonderful for me to discover this volume and find Kevin Young, a major American poet.

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