

Unveiling the Depth of Human Experience: A Journey Through Lockdown Poems by Uma Krishnaswami

Lockdown, March 2020

Suddenly we are all aliens,

We've woken up foreigners
on a planet we believed
belonged to us but today
has been declared off limits.

We can only visit, this
new hushed landscape,
through state-sanctioned
daily walks. It's awkward.

The new social distancing
methods: Crossing the road
when we spot a person
up ahead - indiscriminately

now, suddenly everyone
is a threat. Trying to explain
this to our children. Scolding them
for running up to the postman

or the neighbour,
reminding them, *Two metres!*
Two metres! Trying to keep
the smile on our faces.

We envy our children, sauntering
cheerfully, so quick to adjust
to playdates on Zoom, oblivious
(of course) to the real situation.

From our windows,
we observe the carrion crow,
whose call can be heard,
so clearly now

in the new enforced silence,
as it sits on a branch
bejewelled with buds
and unfurling green sprouts:

this new life we cannot touch

by Sarala Estruch

LOCKDOWN POEMS by Uma Krishnaswami

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 11204 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Lending	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Print length	: 51 pages



In the face of an unprecedented global pandemic, where physical and social isolation became our forced reality, the human spirit found solace in the transformative power of art. Lockdown Poems by Uma Krishnaswami stands as a testament to this transformative power, offering a profound exploration of the complexities of human existence during a time of profound upheaval.

Uma Krishnaswami, an accomplished poet and essayist, pens a series of poignant and evocative poems in Lockdown Poems, capturing the myriad emotions and experiences that unfolded during the pandemic's grip. The collection delves into themes of isolation, resilience, longing, hope, and the search for meaning amidst uncertainty.

Through vivid imagery and introspective reflections, Krishnaswami paints a vivid tapestry of the human condition during lockdown. The poems explore the loneliness and longing of being physically separated from loved ones, the anxiety and fear of the unknown, and the struggle to maintain a sense of purpose and connection.

In "The Housebound," Krishnaswami captures the surreal nature of life under lockdown:

> "The housebound days stretch like an endless sea, > Where time seems to both slow and flee. > We pace the rooms, our thoughts our only guide, > As the outside world recedes, a distant tide."

Yet, amidst the isolation and uncertainty, Krishnaswami also finds glimmers of resilience and hope. In "Pivot," she reflects on the adaptability of the human spirit:

> "We pivoted, we turned, we found a way, > To navigate the uncharted day. > We learned to Zoom, to bake our bread, > To cherish simple joys instead."

Lockdown Poems is not merely a documentation of the pandemic but a profound meditation on the human experience. It explores the fragility of our connections, the resilience of our spirits, and the enduring power of hope. Through her deft use of language and evocative imagery, Krishnaswami invites readers to confront the complexities of our shared humanity.

The collection resonates deeply with readers who have experienced the challenges and emotions of the pandemic firsthand. It offers a cathartic outlet for grief, fear, and uncertainty, while simultaneously providing a source of comfort and inspiration.

Beyond its personal resonance, Lockdown Poems also serves as a historical record of this extraordinary time. It captures the collective experience of a global community facing an unprecedented crisis, and it will undoubtedly become a valuable resource for future generations seeking to understand the impact of the pandemic.

Uma Krishnaswami's Lockdown Poems is a remarkable achievement, a collection that transcends the boundaries of time and circumstance. It is a testament to the enduring power of human creativity and resilience, and a reminder of the importance of finding meaning and connection even in the most challenging of times.

Whether you are seeking a personal connection to the pandemic experience, an insightful exploration of the human condition, or simply a beautiful and moving work of poetry, Lockdown Poems by Uma Krishnaswami is a must-read. It is a collection that will stay with you long after you finish the last page, a testament to the depth and resilience of the human spirit.



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