

Citizen An American Lyric Paperback

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finalist for the national book award in poetry winner of the national book critics circle award in poetry finalist for the national book critics circle award in criticism winner of the naacp image award winner of the l a times book prize winner of the pen open book award one of the best books of the year the new yorker boston globe the atlantic buzzfeed npr los angeles times publishers weekly slate time out new york vulture refinery 29 and many more a provocative meditation on race claudia rankine s long awaited follow up to her groundbreaking book don t let me be lonely an american lyric claudia rankine s bold new book recounts mounting racial aggressions in ongoing encounters in twenty first century daily life and in the media some of these encounters are slights seeming slips of the tongue and some are intentional offensives in the classroom at the supermarket at home on the tennis court with serena williams and the soccer field with zinedine zidane online on tv everywhere all the time the accumulative stresses come to bear on a person s ability to speak perform and stay alive our addressability is tied to the state of our belonging rankine argues as are our assumptions and expectations of citizenship in essay image and poetry citizen is a powerful testament to the individual and collective effects of racism in our contemporary often named post race society

the award winning poet s powerful exploration of an america ever more unable to process its own toxins here available for the first time in the uk is the book in which claudia rankine first developed the american lyric form which makes her forward prize winning collection citizen so distinctive an original combination of poetry lyric essay photography and visual art virtuosically deployed don t let me be lonely is rankine s meditation on the self bewildered by race riots terrorism medicated depression and television s ubiquitous influence written in the years after 9 11 this is an unflinching and deeply felt meditation on life and death in a nation in flux

a searing poetic riff on race in america fusing prose poetry movement music and the visual image snapshots vignettes on the acts of everyday racism some of these encounters are slights seeming slips of the tongue and some are intentional offensives in the classroom at the supermarket at home on the tennis court with serena williams online on tv everywhere all the time those did that really just happen did they really just say that slurs that happen every day and enrage in the moment and later steep poisonously in the mind and of course those larger incidents that become national or international firestorms as rankine writes this

is how you are a citizen

a t/s financial times new statesman guardian observer and white review book of the year finalist for the 2021 andrew carnegie medal for excellence in nonfiction from award winning writer claudia rankine the stunning follow up to citizen and don t let me be lonely riveting bernardine evaristo t/s books of the year brilliant gary younge new statesman books of the year timely and powerful fatima bhutto financial times one of our time s most incisive brilliant and necessary intellectuals seán hewitt irish times ranking is a writer of genius jeremy noel tod sunday times at home and in government contemporary america finds itself riven by a culture war in which aggression and defensiveness alike are on the rise it is not alone in such partisan conditions how can humans best approach one another across our differences taking the study of whiteness and white supremacy as a guiding light claudia rankine explores a series of real encounters with friends and strangers each disrupting the false comfort of spaces where our public and private lives intersect like the airport the theatre the dinner party and the voting booth and urges us to enter into the conversations which could offer the only humane pathways through this moment of division just us is an invitation to discover what it takes to stay in the room together and to breach the silence guilt and violence that surround whiteness brilliantly arranging essays images and poems along with the voices and rebuttals of others it counterpoints rankine s own text with facing page notes and commentary and closes with a bravura study of women confronting the political and cultural implications of dyeing their hair blonde wry vulnerable and prescient this is rankine s most intimate work less interested in being right than in being true and being together

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