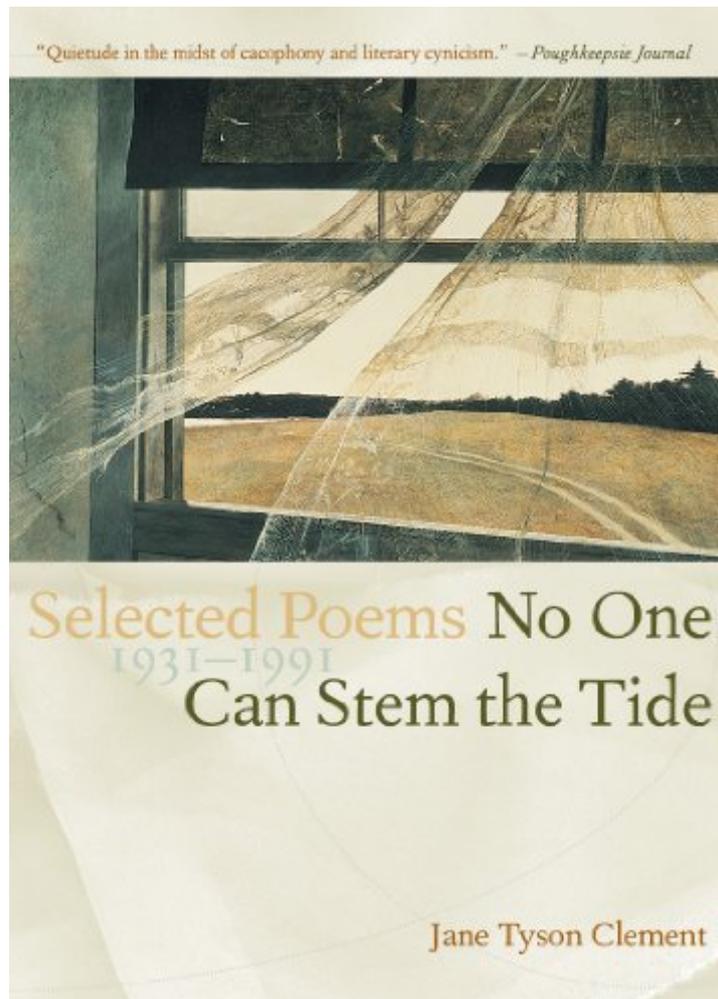


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No One Can Stem The Tide: Selected Poems 1931-1991



Synopsis

Though most of Jane Tyson Clement's poems remained hidden in private notebooks during her lifetime, the few that traveled beyond her hands were widely admired and drew critical acclaim. Now, with this first comprehensive anthology of her work, the public can at last discover this gifted poet and give her the audience she deserves. Evoking comparisons to such better-known contemporaries as Jane Kenyon, Wendell Berry, and Denise Levertov, Clement is direct and understated. Even when technically sophisticated, her poetry speaks with a familiar voice and draws on accessible images from the natural world. Still, these are no mere nature poems. In exploring the varied emotions of life—of love, longing, and loss; memory, sacrifice, and desire; struggle and frustration, joy and resolve—they reveal the tireless seeking of a generous and honest heart and beckon the reader down new avenues of seeing and hearing.

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Customer Reviews

Emily Dickinson and Edna St. Vincent Millay were the ladies who introduced me to poetry the winter that I was fourteen. The words and the images that they captured demanded to be stamped on my memory, so I began writing my favorites down in a scrap book. Since then, my poetry collection has

grown to its own place on the shelf, and I have continued to copy down my favorites in a memory book. I'm so glad that No One Can Stem The Tide is now part of my library. Jane Tyson Clement's lend themselves to slow, restful reading, and time to let them sink in. They deserve the extra meditation space. The first one I opened to was titled Autumn, and in it Jane Tyson Clement says that God "charges me to see all lovely things." I think these poems are her collection of seeing, of noticing. And as you read about what she's seen, you call it up in your mind's eye and realize that these same sights have shaped and made their mark on you, too. The word pictures she crafted jump off the page. April rain is "heedless/lovely/necessary/" and Autumn is when "the wind fills with scarlet spinning down..." Most of the poems start with something in nature (mouse tracks in snow, bells ringing out, salt spray of the sea) and then delve into the human heart. Her inner world and the created world and their merging with the spiritual world are all explored here. One poem that I really love begins with this affirmation: "The earth's good, in spite of evil; The earth's good; I've tasted it." It goes on to describe the many ways that we've all eaten and drank of the goodness amidst the brokenness. That poem reminded me of These Have I Loved by Rupert Brooke.

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