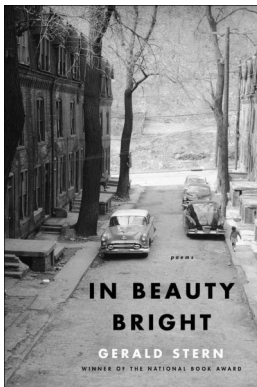


Pick up a Book of Poetry



[view in catalog](#)

ISBN:

9780393086447

If you're new to poetry and find it difficult, you may want to try the work of Gerald Stern. At eighty-eight, he's one of the grand masters of poetry still composing poems. He's won lots of awards but writes in understandable language about everyday things: travel, frogs, New York, cafeteria (spelled with a *k* as are all of the *c* words in this poem), his childhood, flowers, and love. What I like about his latest collection *In Beauty Bright* and all of his work is that he celebrates living in an almost ecstatic way--most of his poems could be songs. Check out these lines: "Like fools we waited to hear the tomatoes; we knew / what greenness means to the vine." or "Take a dog to the vet's, he knows what you're doing, / a cat becomes a muscle, she leaps from your arms."

You can tell from his work that he's the kind of quirky writer that does weird things on occasion to discover his latest poem; for instance, "Day of Grief" begins: "I was forcing a wasp to the top of a window / where there was some sky and there were tiger lilies?" Another insect poem starts this way, "I lost my rage while helping a beetle recover / and stood there with precision, balancing / grass with stone."

And see how immediate and tactile this poem simply titled "Love" is, "I loved your sweet neck but I loved your shoulder blades more / and wondered whether I should kiss your cheek first / or your hair."

Stanley Kunitz called Gerald Stern "the wilderness of American poetry." Did Kunitz mean that Stern always finds in the environs of city flowers, fauna, and people a wildness inside himself that burns brightly?

For a totally different kind of poetry that also celebrates the natural world through the lens of inner landscapes, read Jane Hirshfield's work including her latest, *Come Thief*. She brings a Zen worldview to her poems that is very interesting.

[For the Love of Reading](#), [Information, Answers & Reviews](#), [In Beauty Bright](#), [Poetry](#)

Posted by Dory L. on Jun 10, 2013



Links:

- [1] http://mcpl.monroe.la.us/search/searchresults.aspx?type=Book&searchterm=icdn=9780393086447%20or%20pc=9780393086447&by=KW&sort=RELEVANCE&utm_source=blogpost&utm_medium=publicsite&utm_campaign=blogpost
- [2] http://mcpl.monroe.la.us/search/searchresults.aspx?c=11033.0.0.7&type=keyword&searchterm=the%20beauty%20of%20being%20born&by=KW&sort=RELEVANCE&utm_source=blogpost&utm_medium=publicsite&utm_campaign=blogpost
- [3] http://mcpl.monroe.la.us/search/searchresults.aspx?c=11033.0.0.7&type=keyword&searchterm=come%20with%20poems&by=KW&sort=RELEVANCE&utm_source=blogpost&utm_medium=publicsite&utm_campaign=blogpost
- [4] <http://mcpl.info/book/blog>
- [5] <http://mcpl.info/category/blog/information-answers-reviews>
- [6] <http://mcpl.info/category/reviews-the-beauty-bright>
- [7] <http://mcpl.info/category/reviews-subject-poetry>
- [8] <http://mcpl.info/print/printpdf/blog/love-reading-jack-book-poetry/?page=4>
- [9] <http://mcpl.info/print/printpdf/blog/love-reading-jack-book-poetry/?page=4>
- [10] <http://mcpl.info/print/printpdf/blog/love-reading-jack-book-poetry/?page=4>