



Not Much Fun: The Lost Poems of Dorothy Parker

By Dorothy Parker

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During the early years of her career, while struggling to "keep body and soul apart" (as she ruefully put it later), Dorothy Parker wrote more than three hundred poems and verses for a variety of popular magazines and newspapers. Between 1926 and 1933 she collected most of these pieces in three volumes of poetry: *Enough Rope*, *Sunset Gun*, and *Death and Taxes*. The remaining poems and verses from America's most renowned cynic make up this volume. Eclectic and exuberant, these 122 once-forgotten gems display Parker's distinctive wit, irony, and precision, as she dissects early-twentieth-century American urban life and gleefully skewers a rich array of targets that range from personal foible to popular culture. With an authoritative, immensely entertaining, and critically acclaimed introduction by Stuart Y. Silverstein, *Not Much Fun* is an essential addition to the Dorothy Parker library and a welcome gift to her many admirers and devoted fans.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A succinct, yet enlightening introduction and footnotes with quintessential Dorothy Parker anecdotes and quotes serve as brilliant foundation for this collection of "lost" poems. In fact, they are pieces that Parker discarded as not fit for publication, and Parker enthusiasts will notice that many foreshadow more-polished later versions. Though Parker once described her verse as "horribly outdated--anything once fashionable is dreadful now," it's clear that even her "unfit" works are far from dreadful.

From Publishers Weekly

These poems are not "lost" in the way that we have come to expect from TV specials that celebrate never-seen episodes of, say, *The Honeymooners*. Rather, as Silverstein points out, these 122 poems appeared in popular magazines and newspapers of 1915-1938 yet have not previously been collected between hard covers. This does not bode well, nor does Silverstein, a journalist, attempt to build our hopes?his very lengthy introduction hits hard on Parker's alcoholism. But to engage the reader, he offers, via 113 footnotes, scores of "Dottie's" best witticisms. (The book's title is her response to a bartender's query: "What are you having?"). He succinctly observes that Parker's problem was a lack of artistic vision: "She needed ideas, not craft, and she failed." Indeed, this collection of light verse is built basically on two blunt ideas, which fortunately are not without their entertainment value: romance bad ("The most wonderful thing/ Is how well I get on without you"); money good ("Immortality ask I not/ All I want is a lot of jack").

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From Library Journal

In case you're in the mood for Parker's corrosive wit, here's a sampling of 100 poems that have previously been uncollected.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Louise Reyes:

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Sandra Gregory:

Spent a free the perfect time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to

something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the publication untitled Not Much Fun: The Lost Poems of Dorothy Parker can be excellent book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Clara Demoss:

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