

# the collected poems of sterling a brown

The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown: A Rich Tapestry of African American Life

**the collected poems of sterling a brown** offer readers a remarkable journey into the heart of African American culture, history, and identity. Brown, often celebrated as a pioneering figure in African American literature, used his poetry to capture the rhythms, struggles, and beauty of Black life in the United States during the early to mid-20th century. His collected works stand as a testament to his mastery of language and his commitment to portraying authentic experiences through verse.

Exploring the collected poems of sterling a brown reveals much more than just beautiful poetry—it opens a window into the social realities and folk traditions that shaped the African American community. This collection is essential for anyone interested in American poetry, cultural history, or the evolution of African American literary voices.

## The Life and Legacy of Sterling A. Brown

Sterling Allen Brown was born in 1901 in Washington, D.C., a city that played a significant role in shaping his perspective and poetic voice. He studied at Lincoln University and later at Harvard, where his love for literature and folklore deepened. Brown's career extended beyond poetry; he was also a professor and folklorist, dedicating much of his life to preserving African American oral traditions.

## How Brown's Background Influenced His Poetry

Brown's upbringing in an educated Black family and his exposure to the vibrant African American culture of Washington D.C. profoundly influenced his poetry. Unlike many poets who focused on abstract themes or personal introspection, Brown's work often centered on communal experiences, particularly those of rural Black communities in the South. His poems frequently incorporate elements of blues, spirituals, and vernacular speech, highlighting the musicality and resilience of Black culture.

## Academic and Cultural Contributions

Beyond his poetry, Brown was a respected academic who taught at several universities, including Howard University. He mentored future literary giants and helped bring African American folklore into academic discourse. His scholarly work complemented his poetry by grounding it in the cultural realities of the Black experience, making his collected poems a rich resource for both literary and cultural studies.

## Unpacking Themes in the Collected Poems of Sterling

## **A. Brown**

One of the most compelling aspects of Brown's collected poems is the depth and variety of themes he explores. His work is a tapestry woven with threads of history, struggle, hope, and cultural pride.

### **Celebration of African American Vernacular and Folk Traditions**

Brown had a deep appreciation for African American speech patterns, songs, and storytelling. In his poems, he often used dialect and folk motifs to authentically represent the voices of his subjects. This focus makes his poetry not only artistically significant but also invaluable as a record of cultural heritage.

### **Racial Identity and Social Justice**

Many poems within Brown's collected works confront the harsh realities of racism and segregation while simultaneously affirming Black dignity and resilience. His poetry does not shy away from depicting the pain of discrimination but often balances this with a strong sense of hope and communal strength.

### **Nature and Rural Life**

Brown's vivid imagery often draws from the natural world and rural settings, reflecting the lives of many African Americans during his time. Through these depictions, he conveys a profound connection to the land and the rhythms of everyday life, enriching the emotional landscape of his poetry.

## **Why the Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown Remain Relevant Today**

In today's literary and cultural environment, Brown's poems continue to resonate powerfully. They offer contemporary readers insights into the historical experiences that have shaped modern African American identity and provide inspiration for ongoing conversations about race, culture, and justice.

### **Educational Importance**

Educators frequently turn to Brown's collected poems to introduce students to African American literature that combines artistry with cultural significance. The poems serve as both literary masterpieces and educational tools, fostering a deeper understanding of America's diverse cultural fabric.

## Influence on Contemporary Poets

Brown's innovative use of vernacular and his blending of folk elements with traditional poetic forms have influenced generations of poets. His collected poems are often cited in studies of modern Black poetry and continue to inspire writers seeking to explore cultural identity through verse.

## Tips for Engaging with the Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown

If you're new to Sterling A. Brown's work or poetry in general, approaching his collected poems can be a rewarding experience with the right mindset and tools.

- **Read Aloud:** Brown's poetry is deeply rooted in oral traditions. Reading his poems aloud helps capture their musicality and emotional impact.
- **Research Context:** Understanding the historical and cultural background of the early 20th century enhances appreciation of the themes and references in his work.
- **Explore Related Folklore:** Familiarize yourself with African American spirituals, blues, and folk tales to grasp the cultural nuances embedded in the poetry.
- **Reflect on Language:** Pay attention to Brown's use of dialect and vernacular—not as a stereotype but as a celebration of authentic voices.
- **Join Discussions or Book Clubs:** Engaging with others about Brown's collected poems can provide new perspectives and deepen understanding.

## Notable Poems from the Collected Works

While the entire collection is a treasure, certain poems stand out for their impact and artistry:

- *"Strong Men"* – A powerful tribute to the resilience and dignity of Black men during difficult times.
- *"Southern Road"* – Captures the hardships and hopes of rural African American life through vivid imagery.
- *"The Negro Speaks of Rivers"* (though by Langston Hughes, Brown's contemporaries shared thematic ground) – Brown's own poems similarly celebrate heritage and history.
- *"Ma Rainey"* – A lyrical homage to the legendary blues singer, reflecting Brown's love for music.

and folklore.

These poems exemplify Brown's ability to marry form and content, making his collected poems a timeless source of cultural and artistic insight.

Reading the collected poems of Sterling A. Brown is akin to entering a world where history, music, and storytelling converge. His poems invite readers not only to witness the African American experience but also to feel its heartbeat through language that sings and speaks with authenticity. As the cultural landscape continues to evolve, Brown's poetry remains a vital voice—reminding us of the enduring power of art to capture and celebrate the human spirit.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is Sterling A. Brown, the author of The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown?**

Sterling A. Brown was an influential African American poet, folklorist, and professor known for his work that highlights African American culture and experiences.

### **What themes are commonly explored in The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown?**

The poems often explore themes such as African American history, folklore, racial identity, social justice, and the Black experience in America.

### **Why is The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown considered significant in American literature?**

It is significant because it preserves and celebrates African American oral traditions and vernacular, and it provides powerful insights into Black life and culture during the 20th century.

### **When was The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown first published?**

The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown was first published in 1980, compiling his significant poetic works.

### **How does Sterling A. Brown incorporate folklore into his poetry?**

Brown incorporates African American folklore through the use of dialect, storytelling, and musical rhythms that reflect the oral traditions of Black communities.

## What style and form characterize the poems in *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*?

The poems often use vernacular language, blues and jazz rhythms, and traditional poetic forms that blend oral storytelling with formal poetic techniques.

## How has *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown* influenced contemporary poets?

Brown's work has influenced contemporary poets by inspiring them to explore cultural heritage, racial identity, and social issues through authentic language and storytelling.

## Where can readers find *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*?

The book is available in major bookstores, libraries, and online platforms such as Amazon and Google Books for purchase or borrowing.

## Additional Resources

*The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown: A Profound Exploration of African American Life and Language*

**the collected poems of sterling a brown** stand as a monumental compilation that captures the rich textures of African American experience through the lens of one of the 20th century's most influential poets and scholars. Brown's poetry is renowned for its authentic representation of African American vernacular, folklore, and cultural identity, offering readers a profound connection to the historical and social realities that shaped the Black experience in America. This comprehensive anthology not only preserves Brown's literary legacy but also serves as an essential resource for understanding the evolution of African American poetry and cultural expression.

## In-depth Analysis of *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*

Sterling A. Brown's poetry is distinguished by its deep engagement with African American oral traditions and its commitment to portraying the lives of Black Americans with dignity and nuance. The collected poems bring together works spanning multiple decades, showcasing Brown's development from a Harlem Renaissance figure into a mature poet whose voice resonates with complexity and empathy. His use of dialect, rhythm, and imagery elevates everyday experiences into profound meditations on identity, struggle, and resilience.

One of the defining features of Brown's poetry in this collection is his adept use of African American vernacular speech. Unlike many contemporaries who either avoided dialect or used it superficially, Brown embraced it as a vital expression of cultural authenticity. His poems often read like narratives or songs, evoking the cadence of folk tales and spirituals. This stylistic choice not only preserves

linguistic heritage but also challenges prevailing literary norms that marginalized Black speech patterns.

Moreover, the collected poems highlight Brown's skillful incorporation of folklore and blues motifs, which enrich his poetic landscape. Poems such as "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" and "Ma' Rainey" illustrate his ability to weave historical memory and musicality into his verse, creating an immersive reader experience. This anthology allows readers to trace these thematic elements across his oeuvre, revealing how they function both as artistic devices and as vehicles for cultural preservation.

## Thematic Exploration and Cultural Significance

Brown's poetry consistently grapples with themes of racial injustice, community solidarity, and the dignity of ordinary life. His work often reflects the socio-political context of his time, including the pervasive segregation and economic hardships faced by African Americans. However, rather than adopting a solely confrontational tone, Brown's poems frequently express hope and resilience, emphasizing the strength found in shared heritage and collective memory.

The collected poems serve as both literary art and historical document. They provide insight into the lived experiences of African Americans in the early to mid-20th century, making them invaluable for scholars, students, and general readers interested in African American history and literature. Brown's role as both a poet and an academic enriches the collection, as his scholarly background informs a nuanced approach to cultural representation.

## Comparisons with Contemporary Poets

When situating Sterling A. Brown within the broader landscape of African American poetry, it is instructive to compare his collected poems with those of contemporaries such as Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen. While Hughes often embraced jazz and urban themes and Cullen leaned towards classical forms and universalism, Brown's poetry is rooted more explicitly in rural life and folk traditions.

This distinct focus provides a complementary perspective within the Harlem Renaissance and subsequent literary movements. Brown's work diverges from the urban modernism of Hughes by foregrounding the voices and stories of Southern Black communities. This differentiation enriches the tapestry of African American literature, illustrating the diversity of experiences and artistic approaches.

## Features and Highlights of the Collected Poems

The collected poems of Sterling A. Brown are curated to emphasize both breadth and depth, offering readers:

- **Chronological Organization:** The anthology presents Brown's poems in a manner that traces his stylistic evolution and thematic concerns over time, allowing for a comprehensive

understanding of his artistic trajectory.

- **Annotated Editions:** Many versions of the collection include scholarly annotations that provide historical context, linguistic explanations, and critical interpretations, enhancing the reader's engagement.
- **Representative Selections:** Key poems such as "Strong Men," "Southern Road," and "Old Lem" are featured prominently, exemplifying Brown's use of dialect, narrative, and social commentary.
- **Integration of Lesser-Known Works:** Beyond his most famous poems, the collection includes lesser-known pieces and unpublished works, enriching the reader's appreciation of Brown's versatility and depth.

These features make the collection not only a literary treasure but also a valuable academic tool for courses in African American literature, cultural studies, and American poetry.

## Pros and Cons of the Collection

As with any extensive anthology, the collected poems of Sterling A. Brown come with advantages and some limitations:

### 1. Pros:

- Comprehensive representation of Brown's poetic output.
- Insightful editorial commentary that contextualizes the poems.
- Preservation of African American dialect and folklore within literature.
- Enhances understanding of racial and cultural history.

### 2. Cons:

- Some readers may find the heavy use of dialect challenging to interpret without annotations.
- The historical and cultural references sometimes require background knowledge for full appreciation.
- Not all poems have the same level of critical acclaim, leading to variability in impact.

Nonetheless, these minor drawbacks are outweighed by the collection's overall contribution to literature and cultural history.

## Impact on African American Literary Canon and Legacy

The collected poems of Sterling A. Brown have had a lasting influence on the African American literary canon, inspiring subsequent generations of poets and scholars. Brown's commitment to linguistic authenticity and cultural representation set a precedent for Black poets seeking to affirm their heritage through literature. His work paved the way for later figures such as Gwendolyn Brooks and Robert Hayden, who similarly explored themes of identity and community.

Academically, Brown's poetry is frequently included in anthologies and curricula focused on African American studies and American poetry. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to bridge past and present, connecting readers with the historical roots of Black cultural expression while addressing universal themes of human dignity and resilience.

In essence, the collected poems of Sterling A. Brown continue to stand as a vital source of insight, inspiration, and cultural affirmation, reflecting the multifaceted experiences of African Americans with honesty and artistry.

## [The Collected Poems Of Sterling A Brown](#)

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**the collected poems of sterling a brown:** **The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown** Sterling Allen Brown, 1983-01-01 Written during Brown's long and varied career as the dean of Black letters over the past several decades, these selected works reflect the changing relationship



between Blacks and whites in America

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: A Son's Return** Sterling A. Brown, 1996 Essays on African-American politics, literature and music by Sterling A. Brown (1901-1989), which point out the biases against black Americans in white cultural expression and argue for a recognition of the cultural contributions of African Americans.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: After Winter** John Edgar Tidwell, Steven C Tracy, 2009-02-02 John Edgar Tidwell and Steven C. Tracy have brought together for the first time a book-length collection of critical and theoretical writings about Sterling A. Brown that recovers and reasserts his continuing importance for a contemporary audience. Exploring new directions in the study of Brown's life and work, *After Winter* includes new and previously published essays that sum up contemporary approaches to Brown's multifaceted works; interviews with Brown's acquaintances and contemporaries; an up-to-date, annotated bibliography; and a discography of source material that innovatively extends the study and teaching of Brown's acclaimed poetry, especially his *Southern Road*, focusing on recordings of folk materials relevant to the subject matter, style, and meaning of individual poems from his oeuvre.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: The Oxford Anthology of African-American Poetry** Arnold Rampersad, Hilary Herbold, 2006 Presents a comprehensive anthology of African-American poetry covering over two centuries, and includes selections by Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, W.E.B. Du Bois, and many more.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: The Last Ride of Wild Bill, and Eleven Narrative Poems** Sterling A. Brown, 1975

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: The Indignant Generation** Lawrence P. Jackson, 2021-10-12 Recovering the lost history of a crucial era in African American literature *The Indignant Generation* is the first narrative history of the neglected but essential period of African American literature between the Harlem Renaissance and the civil rights era. The years between these two indispensable epochs saw the communal rise of Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ralph Ellison, Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin, and many other influential black writers. While these individuals have been duly celebrated, little attention has been paid to the political and artistic milieu in which they produced their greatest works. With this commanding study, Lawrence Jackson recalls the lost history of a crucial era. Looking at the tumultuous decades surrounding World War II, Jackson restores the indignant quality to a generation of African American writers shaped by Jim Crow segregation, the Great Depression, the growth of American communism, and an international wave of decolonization. He also reveals how artistic collectives in New York, Chicago, and Washington fostered a sense of destiny and belonging among diverse and disenchanted peoples. As Jackson shows through contemporary documents, the years that brought us *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, *Native Son*, and *Invisible Man* also saw the rise of African American literary criticism—by both black and white critics. Fully exploring the cadre of key African American writers who triumphed in spite of segregation, *The Indignant Generation* paints a vivid portrait of American intellectual and artistic life in the mid-twentieth century.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: African American Authors, 1745-1945** Emmanuel S. Nelson, 2000-01-30 There has been a dramatic resurgence of interest in early African American writing. Since the accidental rediscovery and republication of Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig* in 1983, the works of dozens of 19th and early 20th century black writers have been recovered and reprinted. There is now a significant revival of interest in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s; and in the last decade alone, several major assessments of 18th and 19th century African American literature have been published. Early African American literature builds on a strong oral tradition of songs, folktales, and sermons. Slave narratives began to appear during the late 18th and early 19th century, and later writers began to engage a variety of themes in diverse genres. A central objective of this reference book is to provide a wide-ranging introduction to the first 200 years of African American literature. Included are alphabetically arranged entries for 78 black writers active between 1745 and 1945. Among these writers are essayists, novelists, short story writers, poets,

playwrights, and autobiographers. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and provides a biography, a discussion of major works and themes, an overview of the author's critical reception, and primary and secondary bibliographies. The volume concludes with a selected, general bibliography.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: The Black Washingtonians**, 2008-04-21 The Black Washingtonians THE ANACOSTIA MUSEUM ILLUSTRATED CHRONOLOGY A history of African American life in our nation's capital, in words and pictures From the Smithsonian Institution's renowned Anacostia Museum and Center for African American History and Culture comes this elegantly illustrated, beautifully written, fact-filled history of the African Americans who have lived, worked, struggled, prospered, suffered, and built a vibrant community in Washington, D.C. This striking volume puts the resources of the world's finest museum of African American history at your fingertips. Its hundreds of photographs, period illustrations, and documents from the world-famous collections at the Anacostia and other Smithsonian museums take you on a fascinating journey through time from the early eighteenth century to the present. Featuring a thoughtful foreword by Eleanor Holmes Norton and an afterword by Howard University's E. Ethelbert Miller, The Black Washingtonians introduces you to a host of African American men and women who have made the city what it is today and explores their achievements in politics, business, education, religion, sports, entertainment, and the arts.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism** Walter Kalaidjian, 2005-04-28 The Cambridge Companion to American Modernism provides a comprehensive and authoritative overview of American literary modernism from 1890 to 1939. These original essays by twelve distinguished scholars of international reputation offer critical overviews of the major genres, literary culture, and social contexts that define the current state of Modern American literature and cultural studies. Among the diverse topics covered are nationalism, race, gender and the impact of music and visual arts on literary modernism, as well as overviews of the achievements of American modernism in fiction, poetry and drama. The book concludes with a chapter on modern American criticism. An essential reference guide to the field, the Companion offers readers a chronology of key events and publication dates covering the first half of the twentieth century in the United States, and an up-to-date bibliography of further reading organized by chapter topics.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: A Companion to the Harlem Renaissance** Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, 2015-05-26 A Companion to the Harlem Renaissance presents a comprehensive collection of original essays that address the literature and culture of the Harlem Renaissance from the end of World War I to the middle of the 1930s. Represents the most comprehensive coverage of themes and unique new perspectives on the Harlem Renaissance available Features original contributions from both emerging scholars of the Harlem Renaissance and established academic "stars" in the field Offers a variety of interdisciplinary features, such as this section on visual and expressive arts, that emphasize the collaborative nature of the era Includes "Spotlight Readings" featuring lesser-known figures of the Harlem Renaissance and newly discovered or undervalued writings by canonical figures

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: Cather Studies, Volume 12** Cather Cather Studies, 2020-01-01 Over the five decades of her writing career Willa Cather responded to, and entered into dialogue with, shifts in the terrain of American life. These cultural encounters informed her work as much as the historical past in which much of her writing is based. Cather was a multifaceted cultural critic, immersing herself in the arts, broadly defined: theater and opera, art, narrative, craft production. Willa Cather and the Arts shows that Cather repeatedly engaged with multiple forms of art, and that even when writing about the past she was often addressing contemporary questions. The essays in this volume are informed by new modes of contextualization, including the increasingly popular view of Cather as a pivotal or transitional figure working between and across very different cultural periods and by the recent publication of Cather's correspondence. The collection begins by exploring the ways Cather encountered and represented high and low

cultures, including Cather's use of racialized vernacular in *Sapphira and the Slave Girl*. The next set of essays demonstrates how historical research, often focusing on local features in Cather's fiction, contributes to our understanding of American culture, from musicological sources to the cultural development of Pittsburgh. The final trio of essays highlights current Cather scholarship, including a food studies approach to *O Pioneers!* and an examination of Cather's use of ancient philosophy in *The Professor's House*. Together the essays reassess Cather's lifelong encounter with, and interpretation and reimagining of, the arts.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: Teaching the Harlem Renaissance** Michael Soto, 2008 *Teaching the Harlem Renaissance: Course Design and Classroom Strategies* addresses the practical and theoretical needs of college and high school instructors offering a unit or a full course on the Harlem Renaissance. In this collection many of the field's leading scholars address a wide range of issues and primary materials: the role of slave narrative in shaping individual and collective identity; the long-recognized centrality of women writers, editors, and critics within the «New Negro» movement; the role of the visual arts and «popular» forms in the dialogue about race and cultural expression; and tried-and-true methods for bringing students into contact with the movement's poetry, prose, and visual art. *Teaching the Harlem Renaissance* is meant to be an ongoing resource for scholars and teachers as they devise a syllabus, prepare a lecture or lesson plan, or simply learn more about a particular Harlem Renaissance writer or text.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: The Harlem Renaissance** Cheryl A. Wall, 2016 *This Very Short Introduction* offers an overview of the Harlem Renaissance, a cultural awakening among African Americans between the two world wars. Cheryl A. Wall brings readers to the Harlem of 1920s to identify the cultural themes and issues that engaged writers, musicians, and visual artists alike.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: Black Nature** Camille T. Dungy, 2009 *Black Nature* is the first anthology to focus on nature writing by African American poets, a genre that until now has not commonly been counted as one in which African American poets have participated. Black poets have a long tradition of incorporating treatments of the natural world into their work, but it is often read as political, historical, or protest poetry--anything but nature poetry. This is particularly true when the definition of what constitutes nature writing is limited to work about the pastoral or the wild. Camille T. Dungy has selected 180 poems from 93 poets that provide unique perspectives on American social and literary history to broaden our concept of nature poetry and African American poetics. This collection features major writers such as Phillis Wheatley, Rita Dove, Yusef Komunyakaa, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sterling Brown, Robert Hayden, Wanda Coleman, Natasha Trethewey, and Melvin B. Tolson as well as newer talents such as Douglas Kearney, Major Jackson, and Janice Harrington. Included are poets writing out of slavery, Reconstruction, the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century African American poetic movements. *Black Nature* brings to the fore a neglected and vital means of considering poetry by African Americans and nature-related poetry as a whole. A Friends Fund Publication.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown: Louis Armstrong, Blues Music, and the Artistic, Political, and Philosophical Debate During the Harlem Renaissance** Dr. Michael Decuir, 2022-05-24 In *Louis Armstrong, Blues Music, and the Artistic, Political, and Philosophical Debate During the Harlem Renaissance*, Dr. Michael Decuir explores the interrelationship of the literary, visual, and performing arts; politics; and opposing philosophies during the Harlem Renaissance. His research documents the West African roots of blues and jazz music to New Orleans and Louis Armstrong. Drawing on his own experiences growing up in New Orleans, Decuir details the related cultural behaviors and their manifestations during the Harlem Renaissance. Specifically, blues music's importation to New Orleans and the incorporation of the West African stratified rhythmic and improvisational approach to its performance. Decuir connects historical events such as James Reese Europe's creativity during World War I and its relevance to the events of the summer of 1919 and subsequent rebirth of the New Negro ideology. The research examines how the New Negro spirit

helped infuse an examination and debate about the quality and validity of the period's arts. Decuir expounds on the impact of the discussion in some of the period's salient authors and essayists' writings. They include Alain Locke, W. E. B. Du Bois, George Schuyler, and Langston Hughes, among others. Decuir discusses the correlation between the debate and the increasing popularity of blues music and Armstrong's role as one of the arts' principal aquifers. Specifically, Armstrong's salient recordings, "Texas Moaner Blues," "St. Louis Blues" (accompanying Bessie Smith), "Black and Blue," "West End Blues," and "Blue Yodel No. 9" (with Jimmie Rodgers). Decuir also explores blues music as an existential idiom indicative of the African American use of music for more than entertainment or aesthetic fulfillment. Specifically, the enslaved use of song texts to relay messages of escape and danger, the use of field songs to ease the burden of labor, and blues music's role as a vehicle to identify and solve the ills of life in an oppressive existence.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown:** *The Sisterhood* Courtney Thorsson, 2023-11-07 Finalist, 2025 Frances Fuller Victor Award in General Nonfiction, Oregon Book Awards Honorable Mention, 2024 William Sanders Scarborough Prize, Modern Language Association One Sunday afternoon in February 1977, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Ntozake Shange, and several other Black women writers met at June Jordan's Brooklyn apartment to eat gumbo, drink champagne, and talk about their work. Calling themselves "The Sisterhood," the group—which also came to include Audre Lorde, Paule Marshall, Margo Jefferson, and others—would get together once a month over the next two years, creating a vital space for Black women to discuss literature and liberation. The Sisterhood tells the story of how this remarkable community transformed American writing and cultural institutions. Drawing on original interviews with Sisterhood members as well as correspondence, meeting minutes, and readings of their works, Courtney Thorsson explores the group's everyday collaboration and profound legacy. The Sisterhood advocated for Black women writers at trade publishers and magazines such as Random House, Ms., and Essence, and eventually in academic departments as well—often in the face of sexist, racist, and homophobic backlash. Thorsson traces the personal, professional, and political ties that brought the group together as well as the reasons for its dissolution. She considers the popular and critical success of Sisterhood members in the 1980s, the uneasy absorption of Black feminism into the academy, and how younger writers built on the foundations the group laid. Highlighting the organizing, networking, and community building that nurtured Black women's writing, this book demonstrates that The Sisterhood offers an enduring model for Black feminist collaboration.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown:** *The Oxford Book of American Poetry* David Lehman, 2006 Redefines the great canon of American poetry from its origins in the 17th century right up to the present.

**the collected poems of sterling a brown:** *Repression and Recovery* Cary Nelson, 1989 A poststructuralist literary history - Nelson's premise that the history of modernist culture is one we no longer know we have forgotten and he aims to recover the political questions many forgotten modern poets looked straight in the eye.

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