Flashes of Emotion

A collection of poems

AUGUSTINE SAM

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DEDICATION

For the memory of my mother

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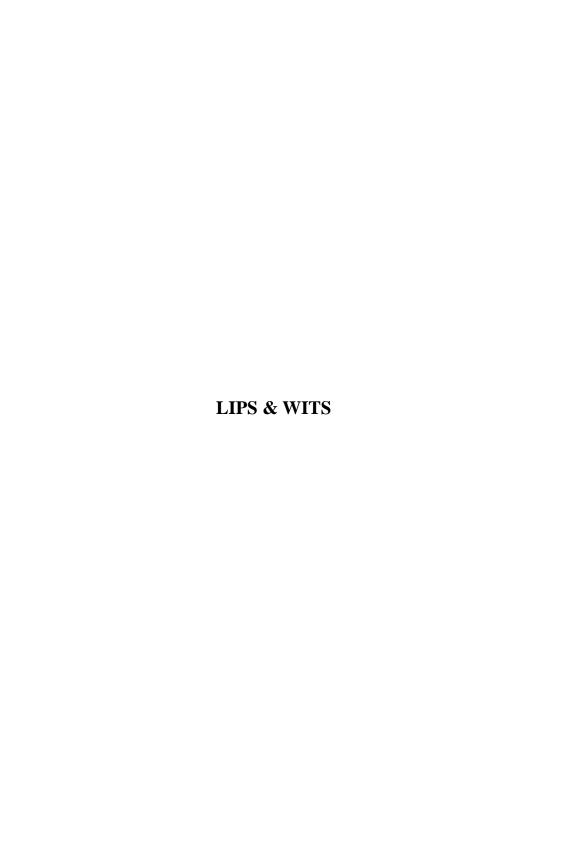
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This is a little anthem to a celebration of the human spirit.

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I am grateful for their help.



1 ANGUISH & PASSION

Last night I saw

An image of compulsive obsession
A marvel of life's disarming weaponry
So haunting, so credible, so utterly terrifying
I saw fire in her eyes,

Speaking volumes without a voice

From the warped precincts of my hermitage, I strained to hear She said, *Reach - just reach*.

Out of the rank luxuriance of a liberated passion,

I thought jagged ironies -

Me, a lifetime away from virility,

Could this be love I am feeling?

About this questionable reality, I will make no fuss
But about misplaced passions and seductions, I shall speak
And the woes of my amputated member, I shall tell

But who can understand The anguish Of an amputated mind?

2 THE WINE WRITER

He was a wine writer, primed and gray Coherence was his personal value esteemed Still ...

Blurred visions and melancholic spells for him
Were no legacies only for the inebriated reserved
For lucid appraisals, like wine drinking itself,
Has been a totem as well as a cross
Years spent at grape harvests still abide with him
Dreams of vineyards and wineries he could not discard
Grape growers and winemakers he knew by name

He was a wine writer, primed and gray Perching on a skyscraper window smeared with muck In his heart was his last debate The quandary was not about his work Not about the wine for which he'd vote

Between

The *sauvignon blanc* he drank the night before And the *pinot noir* that graced his page His choice was all but made

Hence, not even *merlot* was on his mind today About *cabernet* and *chardonnay* he'd already had his say

This quandary...

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Was about life and death

His mind was like a spin-drier gone amok For

His wife will have a child in June And the child was not his own

He saw his fate as a karmic rage

Ghosts in vintry cellars out to settle their scores

For the child

Belonged to a vintner whose wine, long ago,

He'd described as *an inelegant brew* on his page Jump!

Was the only voice in his head today

In his eyes, visions swarmed

Like grape seeds in a harvest field

Visions of fat karmas

On a mucky skyscraper window

Waiting

Patiently

For the wine writer

To

Take

His plunge.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Augustine Sam is the author of *Take Back the Memory*, a muchpraised contemporary women's fiction. He is a bilingual journalist and an award-winning poet. A member of the U.K. Chartered Institute of Journalists, he was formerly Special Desk editor at *THISDAY* newspapers, an authoritative third world daily, first published in collaboration with the *Financial Times of London*. He later became correspondent for central Europe. In 1998, his poem, *Anguish & Passion*, won the "Editors' Choice Award" in the North America Open Poetry contest, and was published by the National Library of Poetry, USA, in the anthology, *The Sounds of Silence*. His poems have also been published in the international anthology: *Measures of the Heart*.

Flashes of Emotion is his first complete collection of poems.

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