

Flashes of Emotion

A collection of poems

AUGUSTINE SAM

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DEDICATION

For the memory of my mother

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

Poetry is inspired by experiences from everyday life, from images, from emotions, and from people. Some people play a bigger role than others.

My brother, Felix, paved the way and gave me a chance to live again.

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I am grateful for their help.

LIPS & WITS

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...

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 much-praised 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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