



She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks

M. NourbeSe Philip

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Brilliant, lyrical, and passionate, this collection from the acclaimed poet M. NourbeSe Philip is an extended jazz riff running along the themes of language, racism, colonialism, and exile. In this groundbreaking collection, Philip defiantly challenges and resoundingly overthrows the silencing of black women through appropriation of language, offering no less than superb poetry resonant with beauty and strength. *She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks* was originally published in 1989 and won the Casa de Las Americas Prize. This new Wesleyan edition includes a foreword by Evie Shockley. An online reader's companion will be available at <http://nourbesephilip.site.wesleyan.edu>."

She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks Details

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From Reader Review She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks for online ebook

Colin says

"The Linguistic rape and subsequent forced marriage between African and English tongues has resulted in a language capable of great rhythms and musicality; one that is and is not English"

And one that is, in our age of standardized tests, increasingly disregarded as just such a forced marriage. This book's been around and still has much to say that we frequently fail to hear.

Stephanie McClure says

Favorites are "Discourse on the Logic of Language", "Universal Grammar", and "She Tries Her Tongue; Her Silence Softly Breaks".

Joe Shaw says

I was introduced to Nourbese Phillip through her 'Zong!' Collection. She interests me a lot as an experimental poetic. I love how she uses the page to create a visual experience for the reader. I love this collection in particular the 'Discourse on the Logic of Language' section. It is a very clever selection of poetry, which gives a chilling insight into slavery through mythology and children's tales.

Erica says

REQUIRED READING FOR A DECOLONIZED WORLD. This should be the first book in any decolonized reading list of poetry. The essay at the end on language, power, and colonization is the most brilliant thing I've read in years on the subject. I wanted to cheer and weep while reading it. The struggle to make a language for ones imaginative capacity as a woman, a woman decontextualized and colonized, in a "politely but vehemently racist" society -- though I am not an African Caribbean and so that particular facet struggle I can only witness and listen and learn to understand -- that struggle she describes to destroy or decenter language in order to allow it to express the imaginative capacity of this female, foreign, colonial subject, no where have I seen it better articulated.

Read it, and then read it again, and then read it again until you know it in your blood.

Samantha says

"each word creates a centre

circumscribed by memory... and history"

P. 96

"(5) Do words collect historical responses?"

P. 74

Ali says

Best title ever. lovely.

Sohum says

Some of the best poetry that has been written in this/these languages.

Cat says

really need to take a poetry class or something

Aileen says

A beautiful collection retelling the Persephone myth from a Caribbean perspective. The use of language and imagery truly showcase Marlene's talents as a Creole poet.

Emily (emilykatereads) says

Incredibly and brilliantly written poetry collection about being a black woman in a colonized country. This piece makes you think and take a really close look at the intricacies of language.
