

NewSouth Books

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Now comes a new collection of verse
from a bold poet of everyday life
Introducing *American Happiness*

Montgomery, Ala.: *American Happiness* is an eclectic collection of verse, ironically titled, by an African American poet already winning the finest of notices. Her name is Jacqueline Trimble.

The poems in Ms. Trimble's new book address everything from the death of parents to racial tension to the encroachment of coyotes into urban spaces. The title poem considers the kinder, gentler exploits of Sheriff Andy and Deputy Barney during a time when Southern law enforcement was neither universally kind nor gentle. Says Trimble, "Barney had one bullet/and no need for rope. / The only burning he did was for his Thelma Lou."

American Happiness explores how happiness in these United States is often dependent upon the myths we create for ourselves, not the reality outside our window.

On her poetic journey, which takes us from the personal to the political, Trimble probes our racial divide. She is by turns compassionate and fierce, cutting at our hypocrisy with the knife of her words and willing us toward our better common humanity. Hardly anything escapes her notice.

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers says, "Jacqueline Trimble waited a long time to publish this first book, but she is right on time. I long for her kind of poetry, these cut-to-the-flesh poems, this verse that sings the old-time religion of difficult truths with new courage and utter sister-beauty. I am so grateful for her gift, her grown-woman poetics."

Mark Childress offers, "It is cause for celebration that Ms. Trimble is making poetry which is timely and timeless, elegant and brutal, innocent and wise."

And from Randall Horton comes this observation: "There is a jewel of a poet in the epicenter of Alabama, who adeptly revisits the ugly of race, the power and legacy of familial bonds, the joys and beauty of growing up Southern—our complicated humanity. Say her name: Jacqueline Trimble."

American Happiness will be available through your favorite local or online retailer, or from NewSouth Books, 334-834-3556, www.newsouthbooks.com/americanhappiness. ISBN: 978-1-58838-327-3; Trade Cloth; 80 pages; \$17.95. Ebook ISBN: 978-1-60306-420-0