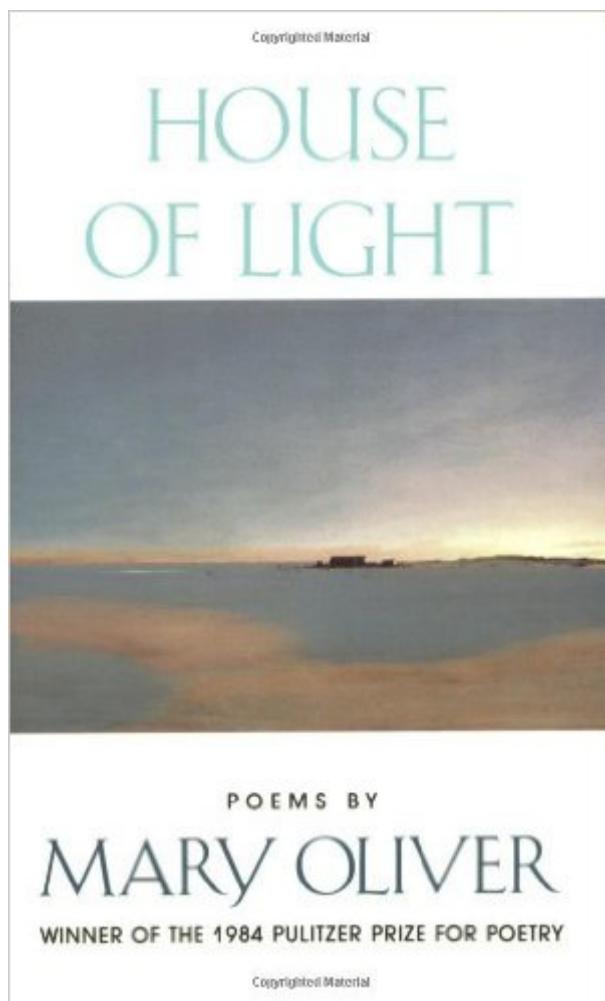


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# House Of Light



## Synopsis

Winner of a 1991 Christopher Award  
Winner of the 1991 Boston Globe Lawrence L. Winship Book Award  
This collection of poems by Mary Oliver once again invites the reader to step across the threshold of ordinary life into a world of natural and spiritual luminosity.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (42 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I've read just about everything that Mary Oliver has written...and something about "House of Light" makes me sit up and LISTEN to the natural world. These poems -- I think especially of "The Kookaburras" -- invite us to become more accountable for every thought, action, and gesture. Mary's poems break my heart open again and again; they're soul-food for me; they remind me of what is essential. Mary is a compassionate witness for the exquisite minutiae of life.

After reading "House of Light" by Mary Oliver (the book was a gift for my sixteenth birthday a few years back) I began to write. It is inspirational ! Oliver captures the essence of each animal, plant, and situation. My personal favorites are: "The Buddha's Last Instruction" and "The Hermit Crab" The book is refreshing and a must have for poetry lovers!

The poems bring us close to nature and enable us to create a link of awareness that is sometimes soft, sometimes shattering. We are connected closely to the animals and birds - "The Kookaburras" made me cry. The reality of death is treated in a way that makes us pay attention and live NOW and

know that when we are enveloped by that vast darkness, as everything eventually is, it will be alright.

I absolutely love Mary Oliver's House Of Light poems and find that whenever I need to feel enriched I reach for her book. It is just lovely and rich with wonderful imagery and a tinge of Eastern philosophy sometimes, I think. She is my favorite poet, although I have not liked all her work. This particular book is the best one I've had of her poems and I've given many copies as gifts to those I love best. Thank you for making it available.

The first Mary Oliver poem I ever read was stapled to a gift basket I received from my company. The occasion was the death of my mother. I read the poem over and over, transfixed, unable to picture anything but the ending image of the transcendent light washing us from our bones. This poem went straight to my core and has never left, 3 years later. She was cremated, delivered to the light, and somehow it was right and fitting that this poem become my sole and proprietary piece of connection. Her works are soaring and filled with buoyancy. Her vision and quiet observation of the world has captured me gently, gently.

I like Mary Oliver's work, period. House of Light invites the reader on a journey to awareness of natural and simple everyday things, which take on a specialness in the chosen words of Mary Oliver. I can see Mary Oliver as a "Universalist" and a darn good one at that. The awarness about which I write is that which leads to insight and love of things in nature. It is like reading about these wonders, and seeing them for the first time from your heart. There is also the gift of interior silence that is created in your soul as you "SEE" that which you read. It is no wonder that "House of Light" was the winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. Donald J. Da Ros

This volume with its focus on light and dark both in nature and in ourselves is a wonderful companion for anyone who loves poetry that is accessible and makes you think about who and where you are. Her turns of phrase and gorgeous imagery are magical to me.

House of Light is a wonderful collection of poetry by the Pulitzer Prize poet Mary Oliver. Her poetry provides an unrelenting guide to the natural world. The reader can interpret each poem and make a connection in their own life or they can appreciate the beauty of her words and move on to the next poem. In "Kookaburras", Oliver writes about recognizing your true self. Everyone should let

themselves out of the cage and be free. "In The Ponds" Oliver paints a scene of perfect lilies. Upon further review, the lilies are not perfect but marred by imperfections. "I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing--that the light is everything--that it is more than the sum of each flawed blossom rising and fading. And I do." There are more important things to worry about in life than all the flaws. Oliver's poetry provides a practical awareness of the world around her.

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