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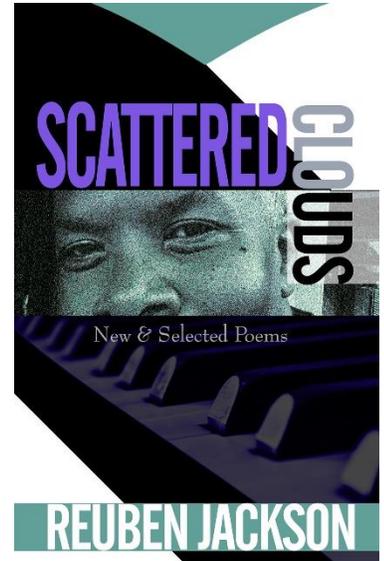


“Reuben Jackson’s marvelous poems map the poles between ode and lamentation, politics and intimacy, sagacity and audacity. He writes for everyday neighbors, folkloric brothers, and imaginary sisters. He writes for Trayvon Martin as well as Frank Sinatra. I have admired Reuben Jackson’s work for over twenty years. Scattered Clouds will alert old and new poetry fans to his fine, abiding talent.”

—Terrance Hayes, author of *American Sonnets for my Past and Future Assassin* and National Book Award winner.

“I would never want to live on a planet where the words, poems, and loving offering of Reuben Jackson do not exist.”

—Abdul Ali, author of *Trouble Sleeping*



Scattered Clouds: New & Selected Poems by Reuben Jackson (Alan Squire Publishing, October 2019, 978-1-942892-18-2) is a volume of lyrical, emotionally forthright meditations on love, loss, and longing. The volume contains the complete text of the author’s award-winning first collection, *fingering the keys*; his nationally lauded poem, “For Trayvon Martin”; and his suite of ruminations on a long-time and deeply missed friend, the late barbershop owner Amir Yasin, and his widow Khadijah Rollins. These poems, exploring Amir’s late-life romance with Kadijah, became a national internet sensation.

An introduction by poet Abdul Ali places Jackson in his rightful context as a Black American poetry elder, who has influenced generations of younger poets with his musical wisdom as well as his poetry. Ali is a Cave Canem alumni and the author of the poetry collection, *Trouble Sleeping*.

Reuben Jackson is a music scholar and critic of national reputation. A former archivist and curator with the Smithsonian’s Duke Ellington Collection, he makes frequent appearances on WPFW, Washington DC’s publicly-supported radio station dedicated to jazz and justice. Jackson’s first collection of poetry, *fingering the keys*, was selected for the Columbia Book Award in 1991 by Joseph Brodsky. He is currently a Jazz Archives Specialist at the Felix E. Grant Jazz Archives at the University of The District of Columbia.

Scattered Clouds: New & Selected Poems by Reuben Jackson

Introduction by Abdul Ali

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