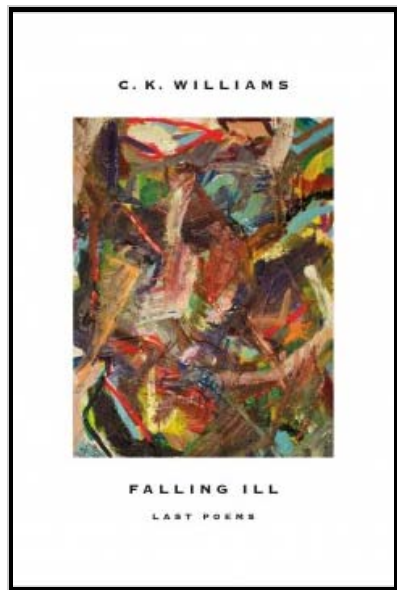


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## Falling III

Last Poems

by C. K. Williams

Price: \$23.00(Hardcover)

Published: January 03, 2017

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Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

**From the Publisher:** A capstone to an unforgettable career Over the past half century, the great shape-shifting poet C. K. Williams took upon himself the poet's task: to record with candor and ardor the burden of being alive. In *Falling III*, his final volume of poems, he brings this task to its conclusion, bearing witness to a restless mind's encounter with the brute fact of the body's decay, the spirit's erasure. Written with unsparing lyricism and relentless discursive logic, these brave poems face unflinchingly -- the dreadful edge of a precipice -- where a futureless future stares back. Urgent, unpunctuated, headlong, vertiginous, they race against time to trace the sinuous, startling twists and turns of consciousness. All is coming apart, taken away, except the brilliant art to describe it as the end is coming. All along is the reassurance of love's...

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### About The Author

C. K. Williams

C. K. Williams (1936-2015) published twenty-two books of poetry including, *Flesh and Blood*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Repair*, which won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry; and *The Singing*, winner of the National Book Award. Williams was awarded the Ruth Lilly...

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### What We Say

The much lauded poet C.K. Williams (the Pulitzer, National Book Awards, you name it) was diagnosed with a cancer of plasma cells and did what he has always done: he wrote poems. "Falling III" contains 52 final pieces -- literally "last poems" -- each one precisely 15 lines in length. That's one a week perhaps for those with a year or so of facing death in their future. Always mutable in his approach, I think the power of this collection will be strongest for those who see Williams here distilled down to his essence. But anyone facing mortality -- reportedly, we all are to one degree or another -- will relish the unsparing but generous attention to detail, the way Williams questions everything from his breathing (is it more

labored than yesterday?) to the look in his beloved wife's eyes (which is hopeful, a hope that can almost but not quite mask her panic) to death itself, to whom he mutters and questions and confronts. It's philosophical and wry and rages with a beautiful, restrained passion that is all the more moving for being so seemingly controlled. "Focus" is the word that springs to mind again and again when reading this collection and surely a diagnosis of terminal cancer might provide at least that. Cancer is not a gift but Williams has delivered one by looking it squarely in the eye. -- Michael Giltz

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