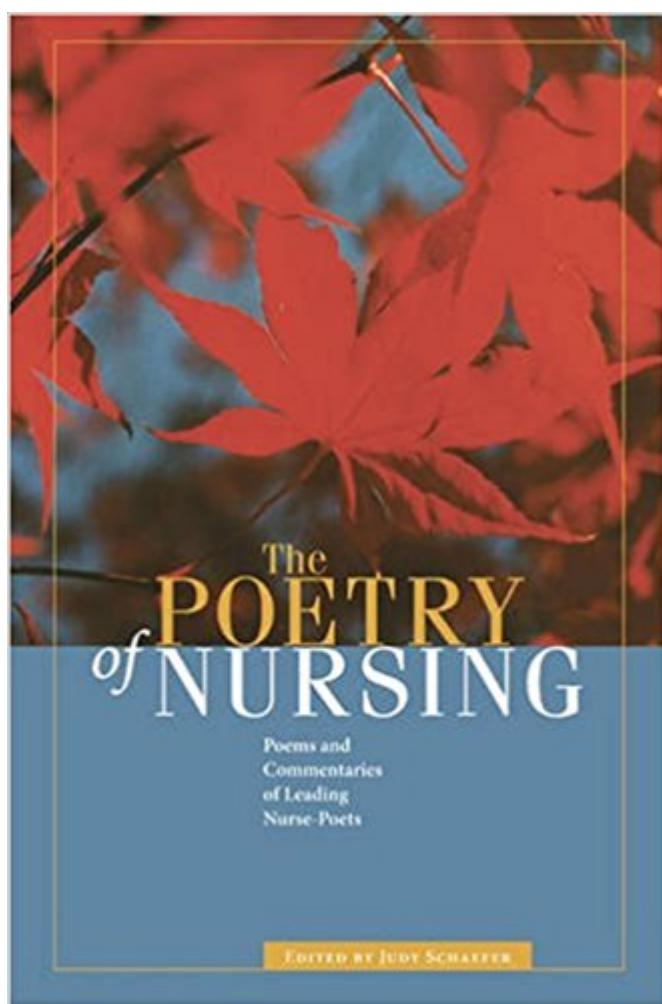


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# The Poetry Of Nursing: Poems And Commentaries Of Leading Nurse-Poets (Literature & Medicine)



## **Synopsis**

So much written about literature and medicine has been from the perspective of physicians. But in the last few years nurses have found their voices and are making important contributions to the field of biomedical and nursing humanities. These men and women professionals see different things and experience patients and health care issues in different contexts. Judy Schaefer has compiled this anthology of contemporary nurse-poets' work, which is accompanied by their commentaries about their poetry, their work, and their lives. She has gathered contributions from some of the best-known nurse-poets as well as from those who deserve to be. The Poetry of Nursing will add significantly to the ever-growing body of literature that connects medicine, nursing, and the humanities.

## **Book Information**

Series: Literature & Medicine

Paperback: 206 pages

Publisher: The Kent State University Press; 1 edition (February 21, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0873388488

ISBN-13: 978-0873388481

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.6 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,395,054 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Writing > Poetry #1968 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Anthologies #2499 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > American Literature

## **Customer Reviews**

"The fifteen major nurse poets here, born in different geographical locations and with different clinical backgrounds, have been poets since childhood. They all carry journals or bits of paper in their pocket - always ready to have-a-say about what they witness in their work or in their private lives....We pass the baton shift to shift and generation to generation. I pass the baton to these poets here writ and to all the others represented by this band of bards." - from the Introduction"

Judy Schaefer, R.N.C., M.A., is a part-time lecturer for Penn State. She coedited *Between the*

Heartbeats (1995) and Intensive Care (2003), anthologies of creative writing by nurses.

This book approaches nurses' writing from a new angle. Not only are the nurses' poems presented, but alongside each poem is a commentary on the circumstances of the writing of the poem: in other words, the poetic process behind the finished product. It's a mistake to label these writers "nurse-poets," suggesting that they are somehow separate from "poets." They are poets who are also working as nurses, just as there are poets who are working as butchers and teachers and undertakers and housewives. The poets' commentaries in this collection reveal hints and information about the process of writing that will be valuable to all writers, not only those who happen to be nurses. Some readers may fear that "nurses' poetry" might be either too sweet or too grim. But this is a collection of human poetry, good poetry, poetry that stays in the mind and the heart.

As a retired nurse, I especially enjoyed the thoughts shared in such a lovely form.

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