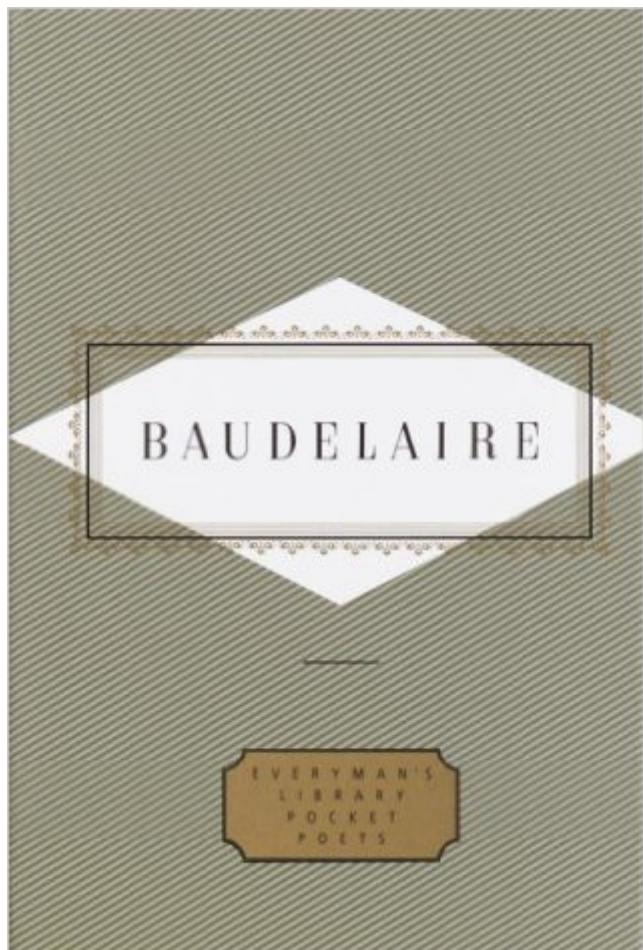


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# Baudelaire: Poems (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets)



## **Synopsis**

Modern poetry begins with Charles Baudelaire (1821-67), who employed his unequalled technical mastery to create the shadowy, desperately dramatic urban landscape -- populated by the addicted and the damned -- which so compellingly mirrors our modern condition. Deeply though darkly spiritual, titanic in the changes he wrought, Baudelaire looms over all the work, great and small, created in his wake.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

the "Everyman's" series is the best stocking stuffers ever created. I am a bit of a Baudelaire buff, and I must say, this small version is perhaps my favorite. There is not much else to say. I have spent the time sorting through the poorly translated, badly misquoted versions of Flowers of Evil. Learn from my mistake. Pass by the frilly, big, seventeen color dustjacket editions and buy this little guy. It will not dissapoint you. Good day.

Baudelaire is credited, along with Whitman and Dickinson, with being the inventor of modern poetry. I wish someone would actually explain why modern poetry begins with him. (email anyone?) But this book really is great. Get the Everyman's Pocket Poet's version. It's got all (or almost all, I haven't counted) of Baudelaire's masterpiece "Les Fleur Du Mal," in a good translation by Richard Howard (though also check out Norman Shapiro's). And it has selections from Michael Hamburger's wonderful translation of Baudelaire's prose poems, "Le Spleen Du Paris." The best of these is "GET

DRUNK," or "Envirez-vous!" It begins: One should always be drunk. That's all that matters; that's our one imperative need. So as not to feel Time's horrible burden that breaks your shoulders and bows you down, you must get drunk without ceasing. .... Baudelaire was full of dark energy like that. It disgusts and attracts. When it gets tiresome--and, like too much honey and too much Delacroix, reading about maggots eating lovers' flesh, will get tiresome--just put it down. When you pick it up you'll get some fresh insights. How fresh? As fresh as the simile B. uses in "the Vampire": "bind[ing] me . . . as gambler to his winning streak." Nicely done. Plus the book is small so you can sneak it into work and easily goof off.

This beautiful collection of Baudelaire includes *Les Fleurs du mal* as well as several prose poems. Richard Howard has produced an extraordinary translation of this singularly great poet. Baudelaire's place as a symbolist and one of the founding figures of modern poetry are beyond doubt. His woven attunement to the modern condition, with haunting observations of crowd psychology, drugs, prostitution, and disease are incomparable representations of urban life. *Les Fleurs du mal* rightly became a paradigmatic text which would provide the vision of a future poetic landscape for Rimbaud, Mallarme, and Valery. This collection is artfully arranged and impressively translated.

This is a nice high quality little book of, I would say, the best of Baudelaire poetry. (It may be complete I don't know what all of his poetry is). However, read some Baudelaire before you buy this, because his poetry definitely isn't for everyone.

I had bought another book of Baudelaire before; but I can say, this one is the best one you could get. It is in a nice pocket size, and it is perfect for those moments of disquiet when you would desire poetry the most, to curl up with a glass of Absinthe or a cup of tea, and read tales of the addicted and the damned, the passionate and the apathetic, and the indifferent and the loving. Please do forgive me for going off on a long tangent. I just would like to say, if you like the broken hearted bohemian, or you like old fashioned angst laden poetry, this is an excellent buy.

Baudelaire is one of my all-time favorite poets. Dark and perverse wisdom from the pen of one of the most famous of Symbolists.

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