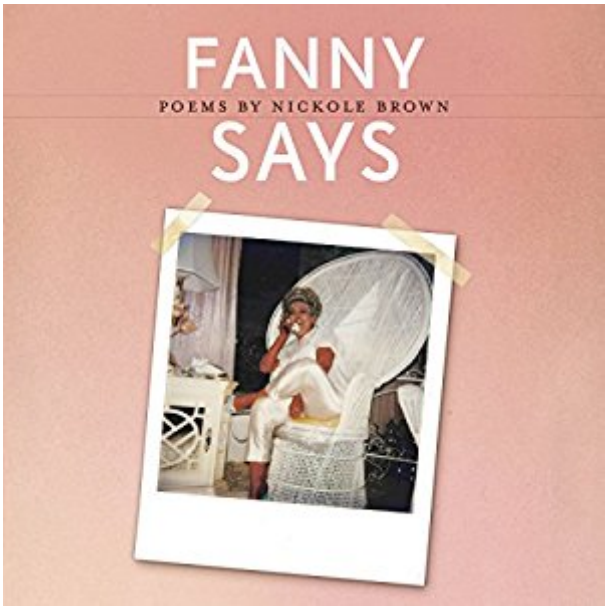
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Fanny Says: American Poets Continuum



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Synopsis

An "unleashed love song" to her late grandmother, Nickole Brown’s collection brings her brassy, bawdy, tough-as-new-rope grandmother to life. With hair teased to Jesus, mile-long false eyelashes, and a white Cadillac Eldorado with atomic-red leather seats, Fanny is not your typical granny rocking in a chair. Instead, think of a character that looks a lot like Eva Gabor in Green Acres, but darkened with a shadow of Flannery O’Connor. A cross-genre collection that feels like a novel, this book is both a collection of oral history and a lyrical and moving biography that wrestles with the complexities of the South, including poverty, racism, and domestic violence.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 3 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 58 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: TalkingBook
Audible.com Release Date: August 24, 2017
Language: English
ASIN: B0751ZQK4V
Best Sellers Rank: #90 inÃ Â Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Relationships > Grandparenting #107 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Poetry #411 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Artists, Writers & Musicians

Customer Reviews

Absolutely wonderful. I was lucky enough to attend a writer’s conference where Nickole taught and although I did not have her as a workshop leader I heard fabulous things from my friends. The moment she read excerpts from Fanny Says, I knew I needed to own the whole book.

Beautiful poems and prose! Enjoyed by both my teenage daughter and me!

Wonderful narrative poems.

She steals from her sisterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s purse to go to the movies. She steals from her neighbor to pay it back. But as FannyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s loving granddaughter, Koey, writes it all down, we recognize the brains, fortitude and mostly, love of life in the spirited Kentucky woman.

Reading the conversations that the author captured as best she could while her grandmother gave her observations on life, death and everything between, we hear Fanny speak, see her pretty face and high-teased hair in a spotlight that imprints her image. It is Kentucky that shines from her reflection, and Kentucky talking in Nickole BrownÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s poetic biography. We learn ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Fanny Linguistics: How to Say What You Mean,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and her grandmotherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s adamant advice, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Spit that gum out now, and hurry, go put on your face . . .ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• and ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t carry a purse but a pocketbook.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Fanny often speaks of her husbandÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •sometimes with love, sometimes scorn, but always there in her consciousness: ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“ . . . and when Monroe belts out/ ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã ËœIn the PinesÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ at full vibrato/ from the roof, heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll stop his hammering/ long enough to yell down/ for rim-rams and tim-tams.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• Her favorite car is a Cadillac Eldorado, her drink is a fresh PepsiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“She might have coffee later, before her shows came on, but this was the drink that woke her, the drink that kept her up.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• FannyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s best-loved hair color is Clairol, Sweet Silver, and her vacation spotÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •Florida. Another love is ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“A book of birds. A story in birds. Each breath/ a bird, each dream slipped from my ear/ to my pillow out the window a song:/ cardinals laughing at meÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •birdie birdie birdie.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• When reading Fanny Says, you will know her. You will hear her speech in your head long after you turn the last delicious page. From Bowling Green to Louisville, it will be Kentucky that you hear talking, and Nickole Brown is the master poet telling the story.

It is rare to fall in love at first sight, but it happens; it is just as rare to fall in love at first read, but I did. Nickole Brown, in "Fanny Says" has given us one of the most extraordinary females ever written into poems. A culmination of memories and direct experience of her grandmother, Fanny comes completely alive in every poem. She is the ultimate saint, sinner, and poltergeist; brash by what life has thrown at her, and deeply loving by how she lives in her core. Brown has captured the voice of a particular time and place, and the gestures of an incomparable personality. And for once, I found myself laughing out loud with complete abandon at some of the wittiest, raw, and honest episodes in this frenetically-loving woman. I can think of no other volume of poetry in a very long time that presents such an indelible and real human presence. And these are poems not only of remembrance, but of tribute and acclamation. To a person who was a rock for the poet, as well as a harbor--providing guidelines and lifelines. The book is worth the read for the sections called "Fanny

Linguistics" alone! But there is so much more. If poetry is the art of transforming experience into mind and emotion, you will come away from this collection having been introduced to someone you greatly become attached to. One doesn't, at the end, want Fanny to go. These poems are brilliant conversations, monologues, and dialogues. They are resonant with insight and human chatter. These poems make Fanny a relative of the reader. Nickole Brown not only has found extraordinary new forms in which language is transcribed, but she also reminds us that at best, we are the caretakers of our genealogy, and those lives that help make use who we are. A debut of heart-mined, extraordinary poems. Fanny lives. Thank God. A book that will keep speaking for years to come.

The gorgeously written 'Fanny Says" is useful. That's what we get in this unified memoir in verse of Kentucky grandma Fanny by Nickole Brown. Parents...well...they do their best during on-the-job training. For those lucky enough, it's a grandparent who was skilled enough to impart grit, values, and love, so we might make something of life and find large bites of happiness. The portrait that emerges of Fanny, in beautiful and vivid rhythmic lines, is of a woman full of faults, but also full of love and caring for all within her reach. You've read your Faulkner and Flannery O'Conner, and Cash's great "The Mind of the South." Now it's time to get caught up on this region in this shocking and hilarious book. This could be the granny you wished you had, or the large family you wished you'd had. Brown accomplishes what she worries she can't do. She "conjures" a bustling caravan of personalities up for us along with Fanny, and makes us glad to be alive. I know my grandma, who saved my life, would love this book.

a thoroughly loving narrative portrait of the poet's grandmother that is at once specific and general, you are pulled into affection by the poet's eye for detail and at the same time prompted to recall similarities with your own grandmother--but better yet a whole generation of women as remembered by their children's children.What's also wonderful about the collection is its length. Good, long narrative poems (that aren't stolid and weighed down by needless formalism) in a thick collection (over 130 pages). This gives Brown the time to mull over phrases and words, the jargon of grandmothers

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