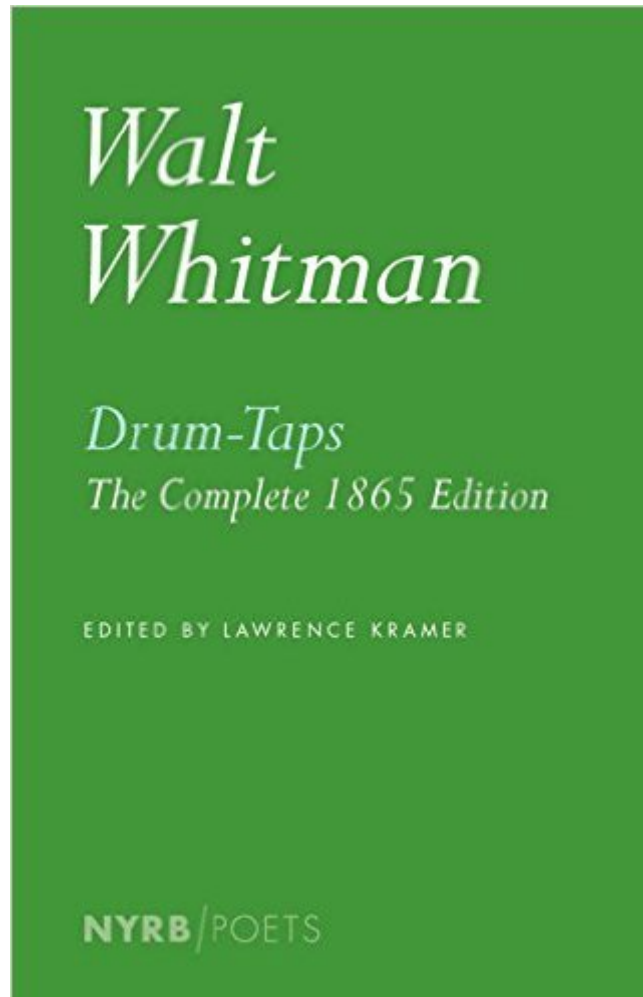


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Drum-Taps: The Complete 1865 Edition (New York Review Books Poets)



Synopsis

Walt Whitman worked as a nurse in an army hospital during the Civil War and published *Drum-Taps*, his war poems, as the war was coming to an end. Later, the book came out in an expanded form, including "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," • Whitman's passionate elegy for Lincoln. The most moving and enduring poetry to emerge from America's most tragic conflict, *Drum-Taps* also helped to create a new, modern poetry of war, a poetry not just of patriotic exhortation but of somber witness. *Drum-Taps* is thus a central work not only of the Civil War but of our war-torn times. But *Drum-Taps* as readers know it from *Leaves of Grass* is different from the work of 1865. Whitman cut and reorganized the book, reducing its breadth of feeling and raw immediacy. This edition, the first to present the book in its original form since its initial publication 150 years ago, is a revelation, allowing one of Whitman's greatest achievements to appear again in all its troubling glory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had read a Dover collection of some of Walt Whitman's Civil War poems but I did not realize that his work *Drum-Taps* was only now reprinted in the form in which it appeared in 1865. I recently read it and was impressed. Editor Lawrence Kramer provides a good introduction and a series of notes which explains the context of many of the poems. One poem I found outstanding was "The Centenarian's Story", about a Revolutionary War veteran in 1861 recalling the loss of New York and

the determined look of George Washington during the retreat. "Come Up From the Fields Father" is a haunting work about a family of a soldier receiving terrible news. There are other works of a more rousing nature. I found this to be good reading for our times; we seem to be hanging over a cliff and headed for difficult days, but Drum-Taps is a reminder that the country has faced such trials before and while Whitman can be a bit full of himself, he did show an optimism about the United States.

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