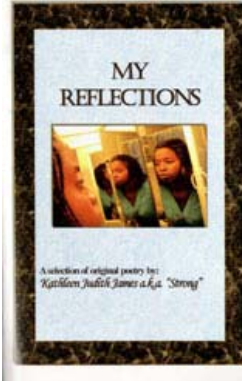


# PoeticSoul Spotlight

My Reflections | Review by Kevin Jones

[<http://www.poeticsoul.ca/html/spotlight.htm>]



Poet Kathleen James a.k.a. Strong attempts to educate with first chapbook of poetry entitled *My Reflections*. As an educator with the Toronto District School Board teaching is right up her alley, but she does it in a powerfully entertaining way.

Her poetry addresses issues of identity, race, love, pain and hope. *Natural Beauty* is an ode to the way she chooses to wear her hair. "I may at times change it up/ And when I have it straight/ I know it looks great/ However, there is a truth that I cannot hide/ My natural hair is my crown and I wear it with pride/ I am unique and I follow no one."

In a daring poem called *February 11th, 1969*, Strong exposes Canada's racist past in recounting the events of a riot in Montreal at what is now known as Concordia University. "97 students were arrested, the black students were expelled and deported. Black Montrealers harassed, and treated by the police as if they were outcasts."

*Unity* is a call for us to work collectively as a family to achieve our goals. "We all have traveled different routes/ But our roots are still the same-/ So we must continue to work with one goal/ One aim and one destiny!" Strong's poetry has an edge to it that is confrontational without being offensive. She vehemently speaks out against injustice; her words are activism in motion. Those who read her poetry will soon come to realize that they can see their own faces in Strong's reflections.

My Reflections is available at:

**A Different Booklist** - 746 Bathurst St., Toronto

**Women's Bookstore** - 73 Harbord St., Toronto

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