Contemporary American poetry can often seem intimidating and daunting in its variety and complexity. This engaging and accessible book provides the first comprehensive introduction to the rich body of American poetry that has flourished since 1945 and offers a useful map to its current landscape. By exploring the major poets, movements, and landmark poems at the heart of this era, this book presents a compelling new version of the history of American poetry that takes into account its variety and breadth, its recent evolution in the new millennium, its ever-increasing diversity, and its ongoing engagement with politics and culture. Combining illuminating close readings of a wide range of representative poems with detailed discussion of historical, political, and aesthetic contexts, this book examines how poets have tirelessly invented new forms and styles to respond to the complex realities of American life and culture.

Andrew Epstein is Professor of English at Florida State University. He is the author of Attention Equals Life: The Pursuit of the Everyday in Contemporary Poetry and Culture and Beautiful Enemies: Friendship and Postwar American Poetry, and he blogs about the New York School of poetry at Locus Solus.
The Cambridge Introduction to American Poetry since 1945

ANDREW EPSTEIN

Florida State University
For my parents
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