



Kalakuta Republic

Chris Abani

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This powerful collection of poems details the harrowing experiences endured by Abani and other political prisoners at the hands of Nigeria's military regime in the late 1980s. Abani vividly describes the characters that peopled this dark world, from prison inmates such as John James, tortured to death at the age of fourteen, to the general overseers. First published after his release from jail in 1991, *Kalakuta Republic* remains a paean to those who suffered and to the indomitable human spirit. 'Reading Abani's poems is like being singed by a red hot iron.' Harold Pinter 'Abani's poetry resonates with a devastating beauty which cuts to the heart of human strength, survival and tyranny.' *Pride Magazine* 'Stunning poems ... Abani conveys the experience in words shaped into art and made unforgettable by their quietness.' *New Humanist* 'A beautiful work of art ... elevates art and humanity above meanness and inhumanity.' *World Literature Today* 'A brave and challenging book ... I was moved as much by what the poems have achieved as by what they have rescued from that nightmare world. Reading, I found myself in tears.' *Sunday Tribune* 'An unheralded chunk of authentic literature' *New Statesman* 'Abani's ... poems contain moments of grace, humanity and humor.' Susannah Tarbush, *Diwaniya* 'Chris has emerged with poems that are graceful pieces of art, almost ready to be hung in a gallery for others to come and enter them and rest in them and weep in them and admire them.' Kwame Dawes, professor of English literature, University of Columbia, South Carolina, USA

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