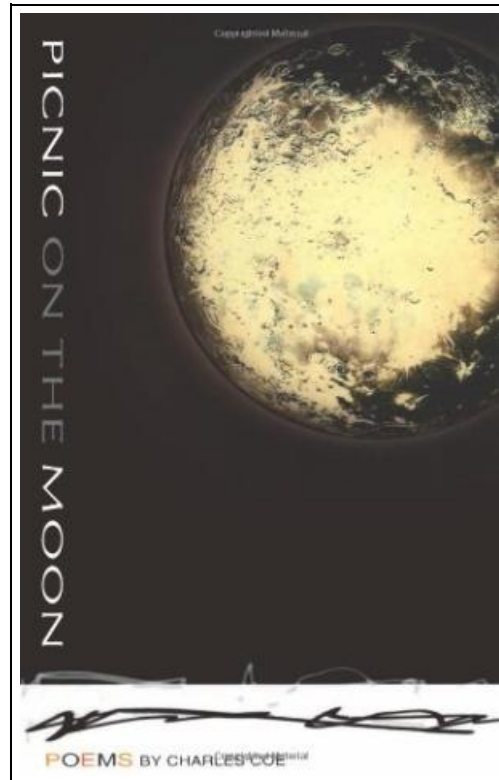


Picnic on the Moon



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PICNIC ON THE MOON



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Leapfrog Press. Paperback / softback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Picnic on the Moon, Charles Coe, Known for his powerful readings and unusually warm and compassionate voice, Charles Coe's poems speak to the heart and mind as well as the ear. Combining subjects as diverse as Afro-American history, myth, jazz, and family as well as surprising observations of those unexpected moments of joy to be found in a work-a-day inner city life, Coe offers us poems as personal as the tale of a sister who opened his life to literature and closed her own with dope; as quietly momentous as the story of Rosa Parks. Here are poems for Ella Fitzgerald and Charlie Mingus alongside a haunting homage to the 'guests' of a battered women's shelter. Above all, Coe's poems touch upon what is essential in us all and speak of life as a gift that is far from perfect but all we have. Charles Coe is the winner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Poetry Fellowship. A jazz and popular vocalist, he was born in Indianapolis, lives in the Boston area and travels widely to perform and record his work. Get on Up! Can anybody else here say that in the summer of 1967, when they were fourteen years old, their mama took them to a James Brown concert? Did you walk alongside her Through the gates of A minor-league ballpark On a hot, cloudless Indiana night When the moon shone like a spotlight On the rough wooden stage? Was anybody else here sittin' beside their mama On those hard benches When James's band, the Famous Flames Came out to lay down A red carpet of funk And the announcer whipped that crowd Like a bowl of black cream 'til the Godfather of Soul finally skated on stage like a waterbug, tellin'; everybody 'bout his brand-new bag? If your mama yelled like everybody else, Then let it now...



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