



25 Love Poems for the NSA

Iain S. Thomas

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Warning. Every poem in this book has one or more words in it that have been taken from the NSA's watch list. A full list of the words appears at the back of this book. By transmitting this book via email or other means, you are liable to be tracked by the NSA as a potential terrorist threat. This book is dedicated to how ridiculous that is.

25 Love Poems for the NSA Details

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From Reader Review 25 Love Poems for the NSA for online ebook

Hadil says

I keep reading this book over and over again! i love it even tho some sentences just don't make any sense to me... anyway, it isn't as good as Iain Book I wrote this for you. but it isn't bad at the same! i love how the author keeps his books interesting. nice short read!

Ana Rînceanu says

Is is a really interesting collection given its concept. The poems depict normal feelings but you quickly realize that the metaphors used can be misinterpreted by a computer algorithm with no experience with poetry. The poems have really interesting imagery.

Celine says

This one was good and uhhh, I'm stupid that I didn't realize that NSA means No Strings Attached as my best friend told me, Hahaha! I thought NSA Stands for Natl. Sec. Agency but nuh-uh. But the ending I was like, THAT'S ALL?! :|

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

Five star concept, three star execution, four star middle finger to the NSA.

All poems contain words on the NSA watch list.

One example:

16

Please don't worry

These are just the symptoms of being a target
(Listen in on this, you motherfuckers)

We're not the scammers

Scamming the scammed

You are

It's no wonder one of the words

We cannot whisper

Is "leak"

Enjoy making love

To a screaming planet

Rachel says

Iain Thomas has taken words off the NSA flag-list and made them about something more powerful and soul-crushing than war: love. And somehow it's not weird. Somehow the poetry is lovely and you forget that it's a political statement about the NSA. It's so moving, in fact that each one makes you truly re-consider how the NSA can flag some of the words (listed at the back) as they are incredibly common. The NSA is watching you/listening to you anyway, you might as well have them watch you read some great poems.

Middlemist Red says

Super fast read!

While the idea of this poetry collection seems special and somewhat audacious, I found most of the twenty-five poems to be rather forced and nonsensical. How is it possible for someone to write something as beautiful as 'I wrote this for you' and still manages to write something as nonsensical as this one! ...

Disappointed!

Btw ..NSA means 'No Strings Attached'

A. says

Really liked 6, 13, 14, and 20. Otherwise nothing that really screamed out at me, but points for the concept.

Kathleen says

Quick fix for the weary heart! I'm giving it an average rating because seriously the ending is like poetry's version of cliffhangers.

Lubna says

"No bird ever looked at a plane in envy."

A very fast read , the idea is each poem contains a word or group of words that are on the NSA radar , keywords when said or searched , put the user under surveillance. The idea itself is interesting, but the poems are not as good as "I Wrote This For You"; they feel kind of rushed , and built around the keywords.

??? says

While the idea of this poetry collection seems special and somewhat audacious, I found most of the twenty-

five poems to be rather forced.

Kirstine says

"No bird ever looked at a plane in envy"

At first I gave this book 3 stars, because while there's some good poetry in there, there's also some that feels rushed.

However, I think the whole idea of it is gutsy, and I love Iain Thomas for doing it, as he states on his blog *I Wrote This For You* (that some of you may be familiar with):

"By transmitting this book via email or other means, you are liable to be tracked by the NSA as a potential terrorist threat. This book is dedicated to how ridiculous that is."

And what better way to expose the ridiculousness of it all than by turning something supposedly threatening into something beautiful and loving?

So 3 stars for wonderful poetry, and an extra for courage.

Poetry is a weapon, really. You can say anything, you can attack anything, you can put into words things that are beyond it.

This book is, roughly speaking, a little rebellion, a small opposition. We should do this more often, use poetry to expose more than just ourselves.

*"Laying down these power lines
A vaccine for the voiceless
No one who's ever been in love
Has thought that words meant nothing
("Nothing" like a pipe bomb in a library)"*

Julia Sapphire says

2.5ish

Gabee Long says

[lets out a **huge** breath]

*"There's something intensely romantic
In the notion that if you ever feel alone and toxic
You can just pick up the phone
And start to talk"*

And someone will always be listening”

amazing.

✿Ivy Roots✿ says

What do you get when you mix a great concept plus a handful of awful execution?

This book.

Twenty-five Love Poems for the NSA has been on my list for so long; only special books get put on my birthday-wishes list, but this was a grave disappointment. Nearly as disappointing as Yaqui Delgado Wants To Kick Your Ass.

Here is a sample from the book, that not only caught my attention but made the whole thing seem rebellious, which I am shamelessly into when it comes to literature:

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Who wouldn't be into that?! It creates a great sense of suspense and danger, as if the readers are just as rebellious as the author. There is an imminent connection made within the contents of the first page between the reader and the author, a connection that falls flat and completely disappears as the book goes on.

2 Stars.

My main problem with this book is that it kind of hyped itself. This isn't always a bad thing, and sometimes the book ends up living to or even exceeding that hype. Unfortunately, *Twenty-five Love Poems For The NSA* struggles immensely to live up to the high bar it set for itself.

It's a great concept. The premise is golden. The author wants to tell his audience how ridiculous the NSA is for making a connection between certain words and potential terrorists. However, the execution of this concept is horrible. The poems don't stick with you, there is hardly any insight, and the whole thing just seems like a sham of a show. Just because you have a great premise doesn't mean people are going to like your book.

It seems as if hardly any thought or care got out into any of these poem. It's like the author had a page filled with all the 'banned' words per say, and just filled in the blanks.

Although the concept might make you think that there author had something important to say, it seems as if he doesn't. The poems were not thoughtful; I was just so disappointed. I was so excited for this book to be risky and fresh, but it just ended up feeling like a big 'meh'.

Great concept. Poor Execution.

Anya says

Sold on the first poem. :>

*"There's something intensely romantic
In the notion that if you ever feel alone and toxic
You can just pick up the phone
And start to talk
And someone will always be listening."*

Also, may I just point out that Iain Thomas is so freaking awesome?
