



# Plundered Hearts: New and Selected Poems

*J.D. McClatchy*

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## **Plundered Hearts: New and Selected Poems** J.D. McClatchy

At last, a definitive selection of the elegant work by a poet at the forefront of American poetry for more than three decades.

With his first several books, J. D. McClatchy established himself as a poet of urbanity, intellect, and prismatic emotion, in the tradition of James Merrill, W. H. Auden, and Elizabeth Bishop—one who balances an exploration of the underworld of desire with a mastery of poetic form, and whose artistry reveals the riches and ruins of our “plundered hearts.” Now, opening with exquisite new poems—including the stunning “My Hand Collection,” a catalogue of art objects that steals up on the complexity of human touch, and a witty and profound poem entitled “My Robotic Prostatectomy”—this selection is a glorious full tour of McClatchy’s career. It includes excerpts from the powerful book-length sequence *Ten Commandments* (1998) and his more recent works *Hazmat* (2002) and *Mercury Dressing* (2009)—books that explored the body’s melodrama, as well as the heart’s treacheries, grievances, and boundless capacities. All of his poems present a sumptuous weave of impassioned thought and clear-sighted feeling. He has been rightly hailed as a poet of “ferocious alertness,” one who elicits (says *The New Leader*) “the kind of wonder and joy we experience when the curtain comes down on a dazzling performance.”

*From the Hardcover edition.*

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