

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910785281203321
Autore	Codrescu Andrei <1946->
Titolo	The poetry lesson [[electronic resource] /] / Andrei Codrescu
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Princeton, : Princeton University Press, 2010
ISBN	1-282-93643-3 9786612936432 1-4008-3604-2
Edizione	[Course Book]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (125 p.)
Disciplina	813/.54
Soggetti	Poets
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- The Poetry Lesson
Sommario/riassunto	"Intro to Poetry Writing is always like this: a long labor, a breech birth, or, obversely, mining in the dark. You take healthy young Americans used to sunshine (aided sometimes by Xanax and Adderall), you blindfold them and lead them by the hand into a labyrinth made from bones. Then you tell them their assignment: 'Find the Grail. You have a New York minute to get it.'"--The Poetry Lesson The Poetry Lesson is a hilarious account of the first day of a creative writing course taught by a "typical fin-de-siècle salaried beatnik"--one with an antic imagination, an outsized personality and libido, and an endless store of entertaining literary anecdotes, reliable or otherwise. Neither a novel nor a memoir but mimicking aspects of each, The Poetry Lesson is pure Andrei Codrescu: irreverent, unconventional, brilliant, and always funny. Codrescu takes readers into the strange classroom and even stranger mind of a poet and English professor on the eve of retirement as he begins to teach his final semester of Intro to Poetry Writing. As he introduces his students to THE TOOLS OF POETRY (a list that includes a goatskin dream notebook, hypnosis, and cable TV) and THE TEN MUSES OF POETRY (mishearing, misunderstanding, mistranslating . . . ), and assigns each of them a tutelary "Ghost-Companion" poet, the teacher recalls wild tales from his coming of age as a poet in the 1960's and 1970's, even as he speculates about the lives and poetic and sexual

potential of his twenty-first-century students. From arguing that Allen Ginsberg wasn't actually gay to telling about the time William Burroughs's funeral procession stopped at McDonald's, *The Poetry Lesson* is a thoroughly entertaining portrait of an inimitable poet, teacher, and storyteller.

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