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## Selected Poems: Keats: Keats



PENGUIN CLASSICS

JOHN KEATS  
*Selected Poems*

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### Description :

Over the course of his short life, John Keats (1795-1821) honed a raw talent into a brilliant poetic maturity. By the end of his brief career, he had written poems of such beauty, imagination and generosity of spirit, that he had - unwittingly - fulfilled his wish that he should be among the English poets after my death. This wide-ranging selection of Keats's poetry contains youthful verse, such as his earliest known poem *Imitation of Spenser*; poems from his celebrated collection of 1820 - including *Lamia*, *Isabella*, *The Eve of St Agnes*, *Ode to a Nightingale* and *Hyperion* - and later celebrated works such as *La Belle Dame sans Merci*. Also included are many poems considered by Keats to be lesser work, but which illustrate his more earthy, playful side and superb ear for everyday language.

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*Biographie de l'auteur* John Keats was born in October 1795. In October 1816 he met Leigh Hunt, whose *Examiner* had already published Keats's first poem. Only seven months later *Poems* (1817) appeared. The extraordinary speed with which Keats matured is evident from his letters. In 1818 he had worked on the powerful epic fragment *Hyperion*, and in 1819 he wrote 'The Eve of St Agnes', 'La Belle Dame sans Merci', the major odes, *Lamia*, and the deeply exploratory *Fall of Hyperion*. Keats was already unwell when preparing the 1820 volume for the press; by the time it appeared in July he was desperately ill. He died in Rome in 1821. Edited with an introduction and notes by John Barnard.