

The Coral Sea

THE CORAL SEA
PATTI SMITH



By Patti Smith

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A tribute to photographer Robert Mapplethorpe by his friend Patti Smith, these poems tell the story of the passenger "M", on a journey to see the Southern Cross, who is reflecting on his life and fighting the illness that is consuming him. The narrative is accompanied by 13 of Mapplethorpe's photographs.

Metaphorical and dreamy, this tale of transformation arises from the author's knowledge of Mapplethorpe as a young man and as a mature artist, his close friendship with his patron, Sam Wagstaff, his years surviving AIDS, and his death. Patti Smith shared a friendship with him for over two decades. She was Mapplethorpe's first model, they collaborated on a film, "Still Moving", and had a joint exhibition of their work at the Robert Miller Gallery in 1978. In this tribute, she recasts her grief to recapture Mapplethorpe's life in the past and his future in his art.

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The Passenger M
The Pedestal
Rank And File
The Solomon Islands
Staff Of Life
The Throw
-- *Table of Poems from Poem Finder®*

She was once our savage Rimbaud, but suffering has turned her into our St. John of the Cross, a mystic full of compassion. -- *Edmund White*

About the Author

Patti Smith is a poet, performer, visual artist, and author of the National Book Award-winning memoir *Just Kids*. She has twelve albums, has had numerous gallery shows, and continues to give concerts of her music and poetry. Her books include *Early Work*, *The Coral Sea*, *Witt*, *Babel*, *Auguries of Innocence*, *Woolgathering*, *Land 250*, *Trois*, and many others. She lives in New York.

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