

Table of Contents

Foreword, *Tanis MacDonald* / ix

Biographical Note / xi

Introduction: Absent Allusions and the Politics of Dislocation
in the Work of Nduka Otiono, *Peter Midgley* / xiii

New Poems

Today, Time Is the Eyeglass I Wear / 3

My Lips Bear Witness to the Blood that Irrigates my Heart / 4

Untangling Cobwebs in the Mind / 5

Dad (Jan 29, 1930–May 5, 2009) / 6

It's Not Just Another June 12 / 7

In Memoriam: Sole Sister / 8

Footsteps of an Approaching Dream / 10

A Chain of Requiems / 11

from *Voices in the Rainbow*

Phase One: Desert Crossing

I The Images Take Wing / 16

II Through Scorpion-Stings of Suffering / 19

Phase Two: Rhapsody of a Lunatic

I Rising Song / 22

II Galloping in the Gallows / 26

III After the Nooze / 28

IV Soul of My Madness / 30

Phase Four: Lynched Illusions

Who Can Blow the Smoke Away? / 36

Phase Five: Midnight Voices

Midnight Voices / 40

Phase Six: Serenades

Ashes of Valentine / 46

Windsong / 47

Phase Seven: Moon Dance

This Earth Is Ours / 50

Soot' Sayer / 52

from *Love in a Time of Nightmares*

Part One: Rivers Within

Introit: Rivers Within / 56

Rooms We Live In / 57

Grandma's Pipe / 59

Paint the Sky / 62

A Memory of Berkeley / 65

Love in a Time of Nightmares / 67

Archive Fever / 69

Lonely Room at Christmas / 71

Part Two: Homeland Securities

Procession / 74

High Walls and Barb Wires / 77

Oil and Guns / 78

Homeland Securities / 80

A Fever in the Blood / 82

Part Three: Four Water Poems

I Thinking of Íyí Ádà / 86

II Teardrops / 87

III Meeting the Pacific at Point Reyes / 88

IV The Sea Bears Many Secrets / 89

For Mama Kweke / 91

Postscript

April Child / 94

Afterword: *Chris Dunton Interviews Nduka Otiono* / 97

Acknowledgements / 105

Permissions / 107