

OF A
Poems
FATHERLESS WORLD

A Novel by
JAMIL CLAYTON

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Acknowledgments



First and foremost, I would like to thank the Heavenly Father, Yeshua, better known as Jesus Christ. I thank Him not only for His enlightenment, but most importantly His salvation, because without it, I am truly lost. I give Him all the praise and the glory until my end of days.

To my mother, Lillie C. Gattis, an anointed and amazing woman of God. Thank you for your love, prayers, and guidance. I will cherish and honor you always.

To my brother, Andrew M. Clayton, my sisters, Carmen D. Clayton, Tanya Clayton, and Zadine F. Spencer—thank you for being my strong hold and biggest support system in everything I did. I love you now and forever.

To all the anointed sermons I heard from bishops, pastors, ministers, and evangelist alike—I thank you for your powerful spoken words and allowing God to use you for His greater purpose.

To all my family, friends, and biggest supporters—I love you and wish you all the blessings that can possibly be bestowed upon you.

A Special Acknowledgment



I would like to extend a special thanks to a dear friend, Mr. Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, for inspiring me to write this book. His positive attributes redefines the phrase “lead by example” for which after observing him, I now know what it takes to live up to its true meaning. Never before have I met a man so passionate about wanting to inspire the youth to achieve greater heights than they can possibly reach. Never before have I met a man so determined to make a difference to bring about change in his community that it left me at awe. To bear witness and see how selfless he was at giving all of himself in time, patience, energy, and knowledge was admirable. He instilled in the youth a sense of hope and pride that many of them lacked. This not only influenced them, but it influenced me as well. Given the limited resources that he had at his disposal, he managed to turn it into a place of safe haven and enjoyment. It’s difficult to come up with words to describe how he has positively impacted my life and those around him; however, there is one word that stands out in my mind—“nobleness.” Being able to learn from him was not only an honor but a privilege. I have learned more from him within a short time than I have learned from all of my friends combined in thirty years. In Hill Harper’s book, *Letters to a Young Brother*, he outlines the importance to recognize the qualities when choosing a friend. He states, “You can’t pick your family, but you can pick your friends. So pick friends who you wish were your family. Today, I have a wealth of solid friendships . . .” (pg. 13). This is such a true sentiment, for I myself could only wish that I had Mr. Nnamdi as a brother.

Nobleman



Who is the man who saw the rocks for all to take a look?
Who is the man who came to tell his story through this book?

How did he see the rocks-to-be when others passed it by?
Why did he look, why did he stop and pick up the rocks, oh my!

No indeed, I want the rocks—so go, the rocks will stay.
Take advantage of what I give, not tomorrow but today.

He carried the rocks in his hands until it was time to let them go.
He left the rocks in a place not knowing where they would go.

Who is the man who found the rocks that lay behind the tree?
He is the man who struck the rocks that caused a splendid fire in me.

Thank you, Mr. Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha,
My inspiration, my hero, my brother.

Introduction



Poems of a Fatherless World is a novel of spiritual awareness. With all that confronts us in the world today, we are due for a rude awakening in what lies ahead. Filled with uplifting experiences, this novel urges oneself to promote a spiritual awareness within themselves. It allows the readers, as well as the characters in the poems and stories, to know that they are not alone, that He is forever waiting for man's acceptance to acknowledge and worship Him as the one and only God of the universe. The message dismisses any claim that there is any equal to Him or greater than He. It opens the possibility of allowing someone's spiritual consciousness to be awakened by a broader understanding of who God is and also understanding the preciousness of Him. The book acknowledges that He allows us to think and live as free beings, serving whomever and whatever we want to serve without intervening.

Poems of a Fatherless World shines a light on the atheists, who refuse to believe, acknowledge, and/or worship God as the Supreme Being. It brings to light the group of people who do not know God. The believers who have forgotten God and a world that chooses not to seek Him, thus becoming lovers and worshipers of themselves. It represents a deity in which God has given man the free will to believe and follow whomever and whatever they choose.

This manuscript is comprised of three short stories, all of which correlate into one another and interconnect. The reader will find a spiritual movement in each story that leads into the next. Each one, in its special way, prompts the reader to look into their inner selves and confront their own demons as they relate to the story at whole. The novel outlines some of the problems, issues, and situations people face on a daily basis, and

gives reverence to Christ, acknowledging that He is the only solution to those problems, issues, and situations.

Before each story, the reader will find a collection of beautiful, poignant, and stunning poetry that serves as an intermission between each story. This provocative collection of poetry will entice the reader to want to read more. The reader can look at the poem selections as interludes between each story. The poems, as well as the stories, are raw and powerful, giving new meaning in its imagery and message.

Dedication



To all my beloved aunts and uncles living and deceased which include Anna Mae Lawson, Alice Moore, Diane Clayton, Esther Hawkins, Eleanor Cottingham, Helen Carnegay, Hilda Clayton, Mary Brooks, Olivia Clayton, Sandy Clayton, Bruce Clayton, Frank Clayton, George Clayton, George Cottingham, Leeman Cottingham, Oscar Clayton, and William Cottingham. Thank you for your level of commitment in helping guide a little boy into a positive and influential young man. I love you all.

Lady Locks



Your hair is the same likeness as Moses when he descended from Mount Sinai,
intertwined by your spirit, not by the hands of a stylist,
but your very soul, spiritually styling your hair naturally,
from the roots to its ends.
Like the rivers and streams flowing
through its natural course without the redirection or manipulation of
dams, canals, or tunnels.
Beauty is natty from sun up,
known to be undeniably colloquially to sun down.
Female rasta, lady lioness. Natty dreads, spiritual oneness.
I credit you for making nappy tresses your holy directive.
I honor you for standing strong in your faith.
Who must I compete with for your love lady locks?
How do I win your affection natty dreads?