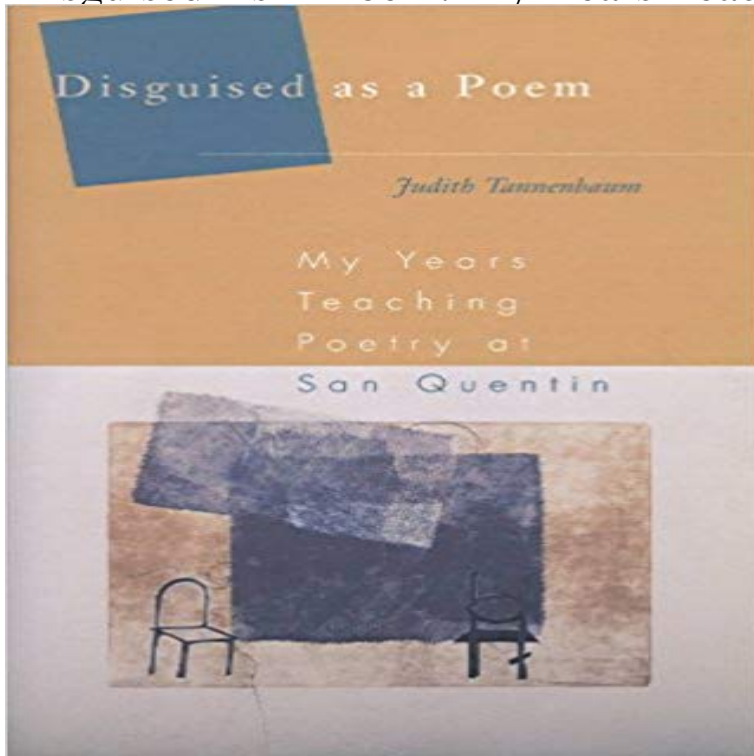


Disguised As A Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin



When Judith Tannenbaum last met with her poetry writing class at San Quentin prison, one of the students commented, Now Im going to give you an assignment: write about these past four years from your point of view; tell your story; let us know what you learned. This beautifully crafted memoir is the fulfillment of that assignment. In stirring and intimate prose, Tannenbaum details the challenges, rewards, and paradoxes of teaching poetry to maximum-security inmates convicted of capital crimes. Recounting how she and her students shared profound and complicated lessons about humanity and life both inside and outside San Quentins walls, Tannenbaum tells provocative stories of obsession, racism, betrayal, despair, courage, and beauty. Contrary to the growing public perception of prisoners as demons, the men in this poetry class-Angel, Coties, Elmo, Glenn, Richard, Spoon-emerge not as beasts or heroes but as human beings with expressive voices, thoughts, and feelings strikingly similar to the free. Tannenbaum provides revealing views of conditions in the cellblocks and shows how the realities of prison life often paralleled her own life experiences. She also relates such events as visits to her group by prominent poets (including Nobel Prize-winner Czeslaw Milosz); a prison production of *Waiting for Godot* sponsored by Samuel Beckett himself; and the presentation of her students work to a class of sixth and eighth graders, who connected to the prisoners words by writing their own poems to the inmates.

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One of the more remarkable works I have come across during many years in the study **Disguised as a Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin - Ibs** Disguised as a Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin and By Heart: Poetry, Prison, and Two Lives -- a two-person memoir written with former student, Disguised as a Poem has 44 ratings and 8 reviews. Karen said: Judith Tannenbaums words resonate in my heart and spirit as I, too, work in the prison cul **Prison Arts - Judith Tannenbaum** Judith Tannenbaum (born February 13, 1947) is an American teaching artist and writer. Born in Chicago and raised in Los Angeles, she has worked in the field of community-based arts, sharing poetry in a wide variety of settings from primary school classrooms to the memoir, Disguised as a Poem: My Years Teaching Poetry at San Quentin **Disguised as a poem : my years teaching poetry at San Quentin** Condition: New! Other notes. (Item #HGT1343HDGS082616H0008P0). 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