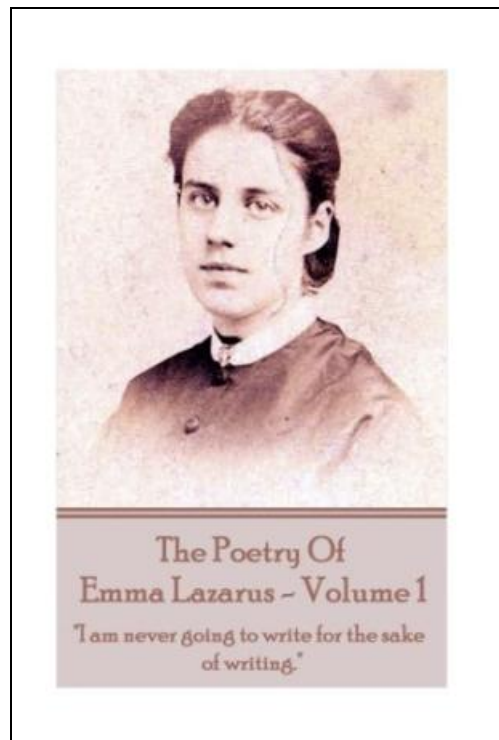


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Portable Poetry. Paperback. Condition: New. 64 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in. Emma Lazarus was born on July 22nd, 1849, in New York City, the fourth of seven children of Moses Lazarus and Esther Nathan, Sephardic Jews whose families, originally from Portugal, had settled in New York during the colonial period. From an early age, she studied American and British literature, as well as the German, French, and Italian languages. Her early writings attracted the attention of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emma grew to become not only an important poet but also edited many collections of German poems, including Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Heinrich Heine, some of which we include in these volumes. Among her other writings are a novel and two plays in five acts, *The Spagnoletto*, a tragic verse drama and *The Dance to Death*, a dramatization of a German short story about the burning of Jews in Nordhausen during the Black Death. Her interest in her Jewish ancestry grew markedly after reading George Eliots *Daniel Deronda*, together with the alarming reports of the Russian pogroms following the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881. As a result of this appalling anti-Semitic violence, thousands of destitute Ashkenazi Jews left Russia for New York, leading Lazarus to write articles on the subject as well as the book *Songs of a Semite* (1882). She began to help on a more practical level by helping to establish the Hebrew Technical Institute in New York, to provide support, resources and vocational training to help destitute Jewish immigrants become self-supporting. Emmas best known work is *The New Colossus*, a sonnet written in 1883; its lines appear on a bronze plaque in the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty placed there in 1903. It was written for and donated to an auction, conducted by...

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