

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FC 7775

The Reason I Like Chocolate



AND OTHER CHILDREN POEMS BY

Nikki Giovanni



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The Reason I Like Chocolate

Like many parents I have a varying attitude about children. Sometimes they remind me of Max in *Where the Wild Things Are*—devilish but sweet; sometimes they remind me of Bluster on *The Wishing Gate* who, after all that effort to find the gate, only wished to be home; and lots of times I think of the story in my old 3rd grade reader *If I Were Going*. There is a story called "The Longest Way 'Round Is The Shortest Way Home." A little boy lived on the other side of the mountain. Everyday in order to get to school the little boy had to walk around the mountain and everyday he argued with his mother that it would be quicker to go *over* than *around*. His mother finally realized he was one of those youngsters who doesn't believe fat meat is greasy so she said, "All right. Go over it." After school that day he rushed down the lane and started his climb—confident and secure. Soon the bramble bushes were scratching at his legs, the little insects were buzzing his ankles and the sun was beaming directly on his head. The mountain seemed to grow steeper with each step. He finally reached the top only to understand, to his horror, that he had to inch his way down as he had inched his way up. There is probably an adult lesson in that story somewhere 'cause I'm thirty-three years old and I still remember it.

The reason I like chocolate is when I was in the 5th grade I would buy a Sugar Daddy which would last all day long. It always seemed to me that happy occasions brought forth a chunk of chocolate. I have a fondness also for peppermint but for a different reason.

Some of these poems aren't strictly children's poems but that's because I don't believe children can be strictly categorized. I once gave a birthday party for my son, Tommy, where I served caviar, black bread, salad, and assorted cold meats with a ginger ale punch. "You know, Nikki," (all of Tommy's friends call me Nikki) a little girl said, "the reason I like to come to your house is we get grown up food." Maybe. Or maybe she was just saying that the reason she likes chocolate is that it's good.

Nikki Giovanni
New York City 1976

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Side I

1. Dance Poem
2. Kidnap Poem
3. for the Masai Warriors
of Don Miller
4. Poem For Flora
5. Alabama Poem
6. Winter Poem
7. Swaziland
8. Trips
9. Parents Never Understand
10. Tommy's Mommy
11. The Drum
12. Joy
13. Springtime
14. The Reason I Like Chocolate

Side II

1. Knoxville, Tennessee
2. Mommies/Daddies
3. Ten Years Old
4. Nothing Makes Sense
5. Two Friends
6. The Wonder Woman
for Stevie Wonder
7. Everytime It Rains
8. Intellectualism
9. Let's Take A Nap
10. James Shell's Snowball Stand
11. Poem For Rodney
12. Basketball
13. Ego Tripping
14. Word Poem

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DAY**—36 new poems read by Nikki Giovanni.

FL 9798 LEGACIES—the poetry of Nikki Giovanni read by NIKKI GIOVANNI. From the liner notes, "I think poetry as being autobiographical. . . that we who write believe our poems. . . I'm very fond of this album because it has been on my mind for some time." 20 contemporary Black poems by this very gifted poet.

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