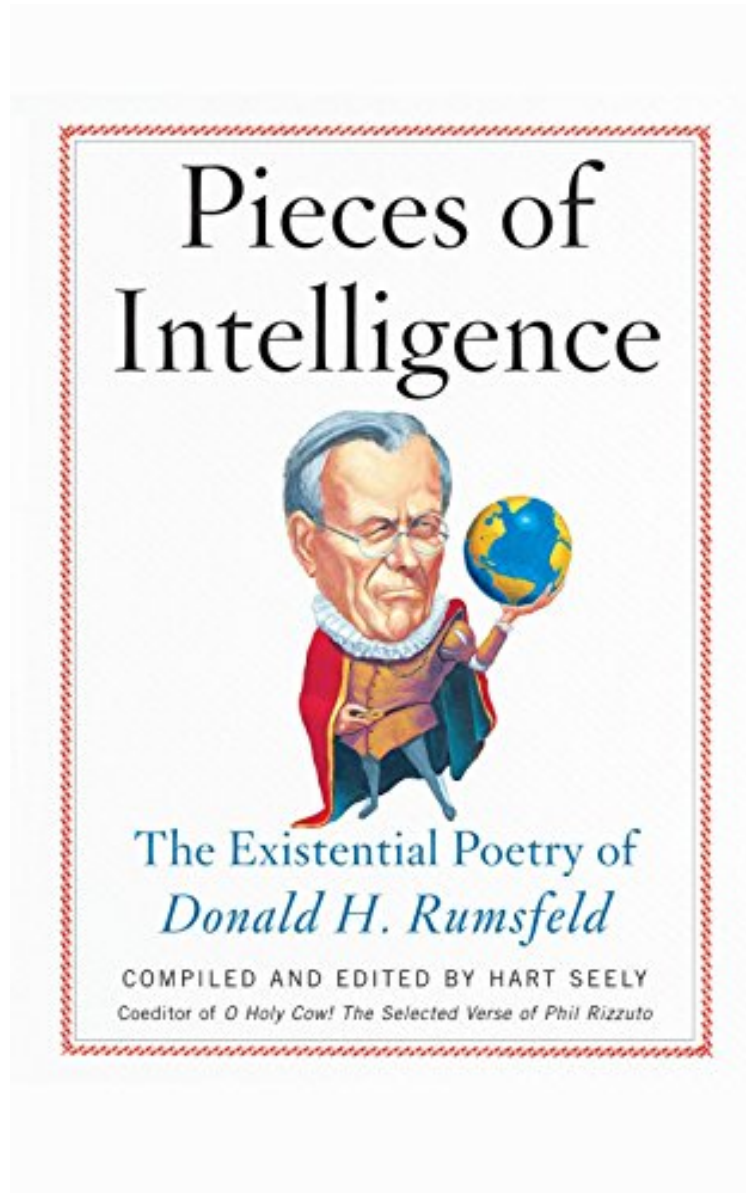


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Pieces of Intelligence: The Existential Poetry of Donald H. Rumsfeld

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From Brand: Free Press : Pieces of Intelligence: The Existential Poetry of Donald H. Rumsfeld before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pieces of Intelligence: The Existential Poetry of Donald H. Rumsfeld:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The art of deflectionBy InkhornIf you google Rumsfeld quotes you would find over one million sites. You might even discover that a recording artist has put some of his quotations to

music. I was thrilled to discover that someone has actually assembled a book of his poetry, and many of these I had not seen elsewhere. I have memorised and used a couple of his patterns, and used them. Here is an example not in the book, the absence evidence pattern: There is another way to phrase that, and that is that the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence. It is simply saying the same thing in a different way. Simply because you do not have evidence that something does exist, does not mean that you have evidence that it does not exist. In this example Rumsfeld is using a chiasmic language pattern, where the phrase is repeated but the key words are inverted. Absence-evidence evidence -absence. In addition he uses negation, making it even more confusing. Here's another one: If I said yes, that would then suggest that that might be the only place where it might be done which would not be accurate, necessarily accurate. It might also not be inaccurate, but I'm disinclined to mislead anyone. So, just because Rumsfeld says he is disinclined to mislead anyone, does that necessarily mean he is not disinclined to mislead anyone? As you can see these are written at such a high level of abstraction that they can be used in any context. If you're like me, as you read this book, you can discover Rumsfeld quotes you won't see elsewhere, you can also discover Rumsfeld quotes elsewhere that you won't see in this book. It's as inspiring as it is confounding. Personal favorites are chasing chickens, and the Deer Moose border quote. I hope you find this review helpful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Only a sockpuppet By Only the NSA knows for sure Only a sockpuppet would take this book literally because sockpuppets are not programmed to discern satire. Which is a good thing because some of the reviews are more comical than the book and you can read them here for free. And then you can try to discern the sockpuppets from the real prats, and you know who you are. Maybe not. Seriously, this is a compilation of actual quotes that were never intended to be poems, but could be reinterpreted as poetry. Some may be slightly out of context for the sake of poetic license, but most have been taken verbatim. If the humor goes over your head then maybe you need to -never mind. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The title says it all ... By Kevin W Bishop When dealing with a difficult client who reluctantly gave us requirements for the project, time and again, I happened to mention that we have "known unknowns and unknown unknowns ..." My boss asked me to quit being so Rumsfeldian. But truly folks, Mr. Seely has taken Rumsfeldian rhetoric, verbatim, and created a comical yet serious selection of "poems" that do indeed question truth, reality and existence itself like no other thoughtless person could.

Donald Rumsfeld is not just a two-time Secretary of Defence, former CEO, former White House Chief of Staff, and the most outspoken and forceful civilian military leader in recent American history. He is also, intentionally or not, a poet. At last, the ubiquitous and at times unintelligible U.S. Secretary of Defence has been deciphered by humorist Hart Seely, who found that the rambling raconteur is best understood when set in verse. Seely uncovers zen poems and lyrics, haikus and sonnets and has plucked the golden apples from 'D.H.' Rumsfeld's tree to present over 100 hilarious gems drawn from Rummy's public statements. Whether you love him or hate him, they're irresistible. As we know, There are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know There are known unknowns. That is to say We know there are some things We do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, The ones we don't know we don't know.

About the Author Hart Seely is an award-winning reporter for the Syracuse Post-Standard. His humor and satire have appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, National Lampoon, and on National Public Radio. He is the editor of Pieces of Intelligence: The Existential Poetry of Donald H. Rumsfeld and coeditor (with Tom Peyer) of O Holy Cow! The Selected Verse of Phil Rizzuto. Seely lives in beautiful Syracuse, New York, with his wife and three children. Excerpt. © Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Introduction The poetry of D. H. Rumsfeld (as he is known to the literary cognoscenti) demands to be read aloud. Like the epics of Homer, or modern African-American street poetry, Rumsfeld's oeuvre originated as oral improvisation, initially heard only by hard-bitten reporters and round-the-clock viewers of C-SPAN. Unlike most modern poets, who closet themselves with pen in hand, Rumsfeld surrenders to his poetic muse when confronting the boom microphones and iron-willed interrogators of the Washington press corps. During news briefings and media interviews, Rumsfeld quietly inserts haiku, sonnets, free verse, and flights of lyrical fancy into his responses, embedding the verses within the full transcripts of his sessions, which are published on the U.S. Defense Department's website. A former Navy pilot, congressman, White House chief of staff, and pharmaceutical executive, not to mention a two-time secretary of defense, Rumsfeld has made a career out of turning divergent schools of thought into one coherent message. That versatility is reflected in his poetry. At times, Rumsfeld composes in jazzy, lyrical riffs that pulsate with the rhythm of his childhood on the streets of Chicago. From there, he'll unfurl a Homeric tale cautioning us about the ways of bureaucracy. He'll fire off rounds of irony with a Western cowboy's sensibility, enough for some to call him "America's poet lariat." Or in poems like "The Unknown," his most disturbing work, Rumsfeld mixes Zen-like enlightenment and indifference, probably culled from his many trips to the Far East. "There are some things we do not know," the poet warns. "But there are also unknown unknowns." For all its known and unknown unknowns, Pieces of Intelligence is less about national affairs than about the poet himself. From the era when gas stations held "little things" of glass to the leak-filled corridors of present-day Washington, Rumsfeld stands out as a man whose quest for real answers long ago required the kinds of

questions no reporter dared to ask. "What in the world am I doing here?" he says, in "A Confession." His answer is no less a riddle. "It's a big surprise," and nothing more. Sometimes comic, sometimes dark, D. H. Rumsfeld's poetry is irreverent but always relevant, occasionally structurally challenged and always structurally challenging. Pieces of Intelligence is the U.S. defense secretary's long-awaited first collection, combining precision-guided insights and a revolution in metaphorical affairs, to take the reader on a dazzling journey of the spoken verse. Copyright © 2003 by Hart Seely from Chapter One: War is Peace: The Zen Master Poet The Unknown As we know, There are known knowns. There are things we know we know. We also know There are known unknowns. That is to say We know there are some things We do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns, The ones we don't know we don't know. Feb. 12, 2002, Department of Defense news briefing Needless to Say Needless to say, The president is correct. Whatever it was he said. Feb. 28, 2003, Department of Defense briefing Muscles Abu Zubaydah. He had holes in him. And he had some infections. And he was not in great shape, And he obviously talked When people asked him questions. And he said this, that and the other thing. Has he started to give any intelligence? I would assume so, But anything useful? It's not clear yet. And I don't know that I want To get into daily reports on it. But his health is improving. Now why don't the rest of you people Go do pushups like this guy? Look at those muscles! He's got muscles in places I don't even have places. Look at him! April 12, 2002, stakeout at the Pentagon Copyright © 2003 by Hart Seely