

# *Abandon Automobile*

Fifth Estate Collective  
Jason Kohser

2002

poems like distilled scenes from the grey of a city whose lettuce days are just stories of a drunk at a vet's bar  
poems whose hope defies common sense  
poems like old friends loves memories that haunt with each page turned  
poems that pull threads out of the collective conscience of a place  
this is Abandon Automobile Detroit City Poetry 2001  
Abandon Automobile edited by melba Joyce Boyd and m l liebler is  
comprehensive in covering detroit poetry over the last four decades  
the poems  
tell the story of what the city is to the authors  
how it changes them in  
their lives  
or just plain says here have a slice of pie  
it tastes just like your grandmother's  
and it doesn't matter anymore  
the incinerator  
the assembly plants deserted  
the murders  
the vernors plant  
the alive blackbottom  
the regentrified  
the never will be gentrified  
streets that don't see snow plows  
for better or worse detroit infects its writers  
like a siren in this old port town  
like andrei codrescu writes (p.99)  
"& it's true  
in a way i was born here  
born an american here  
an american without a car  
in motor city  
born in detroit oddly enough  
but never regretfully"  
—Jason Kohser

*Abandon Automobile: Detroit City Poetry 2001*. Eds. Melba Joyce Boyd and M.L. Liebler. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001.

Diverse, dynamic, and defiant—this ambitious anthology of poetry as resistance includes the words of many past and current friends of and contributors to the *Fifth Estate*, including: William Boyer, Andrei Codrescu, Maurice Greenia, Jim Gustafson, Kevin Rashid, Marilyn Rashid, John Sinclair, David Watson, and others.

# fifth Estate

Fifth Estate Collective  
Jason Kohser  
*Abandon Automobile*  
2002

<https://www.fifthestate.org/archive/357-summer-2002/abandon-automobile>  
Fifth Estate #357, Summer 2002

**[fifthestate.anarchistlibraries.net](https://www.fifthestate.org)**