



## Ambition and Survival: Becoming a Poet (Paperback)

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By Christian Wiman

Copper Canyon Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Blazing high style is how The New York Times describes the prose of Christian Wiman, the young editor who transformed Poetry, the country's oldest literary magazine. *Ambition and Survival* is a collection of stirring personal essays and critical prose on a wide range of subjects: reading Milton in Guatemala, recalling violent episodes of his youth, and traveling in Africa with his eccentric father, as well as a series of penetrating essays on writers as diverse as Thomas Hardy and Janet Lewis. The book concludes with a portrait of Wiman's diagnosis of a rare form of incurable and lethal cancer, and how mortality reignited his religious passions. When I was twenty years old I set out to be a poet. That sounds like I was a sort of frigate raising anchor, and in a way I guess I was, though susceptible to the lightest of winds. . . . When I read Samuel Johnson's comment that any young man could compensate for his poor education by reading five hours a day for five years, that's exactly what...



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