Verses Wielded Like A Razor

The most brutal and iconoclastic book of verse published in the last 25 years, I've long felt, is Louise Glück's "A Razor in My Pocket"

By Louise Glück

Of course, that's also the title of her latest book, "A Razor in My Pocket: Poems 1962-2012." It's a fitting title for this collection of poems, which range from the personal to the political, from the domestic to the international.

Glück's work is characterized by its emotional intensity and its ability to convey deep feelings through the use of precise and powerful language. Her poems often explore themes of pain, loss, and survival, and they are written with a raw honesty that draws the reader in.

The collection begins with "A Village Life," a poem that describes the experience of being a child in a small village in the 1960s. The poem is a vivid and powerful depiction of the author's childhood, and it sets the tone for the rest of the book.

The poems that follow are equally powerful, each one bringing with them a sense of urgency and a desire to make sense of the world. Glück's poetry is a call to action, a plea for change, a reminder of the importance of speaking truth to power.

In "Blood on the Tracks," Glück writes about the Vietnam War and its impact on her own life. The poem is a powerful statement about the violence and destruction of war, and it is written with a raw intensity that is both unsettling and compelling.

"A Razor in My Pocket" is a collection of poems that are both personal and political, and it is a testament to the power of the written word to change the world.