



# Night of the Republic

*Alan Shapiro*

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*Alan Shapiro*

## **Night of the Republic** Alan Shapiro

An urgent and timely collection by one of America's most inventive and accessible poets

In *Night of the Republic*, Alan Shapiro takes us on an unsettling night tour of America's public places—a gas station restroom, shoe store, convention hall, and race track among others—and in stark Edward Hopper-like imagery reveals the surreal and dreamlike features of these familiar but empty night spaces. Shapiro finds in them not the expected alienation but rather an odd, companionable solitude rising up from the quiet emptiness.

In other poems, Shapiro writes movingly of his 1950s and 60s childhood in Brookline, Massachusetts, with special focus on the house he grew up in. These meditations, always inflected with Shapiro's quick wit and humor, lead to recollections of tragic and haunting events such as the Cuban missile crisis and the assassination of JFK. While *Night of the Republic* is Shapiro's most ambitious work to date, it is also his most timely and urgent for the acute way it illuminates the mingling of private obsessions with public space.

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