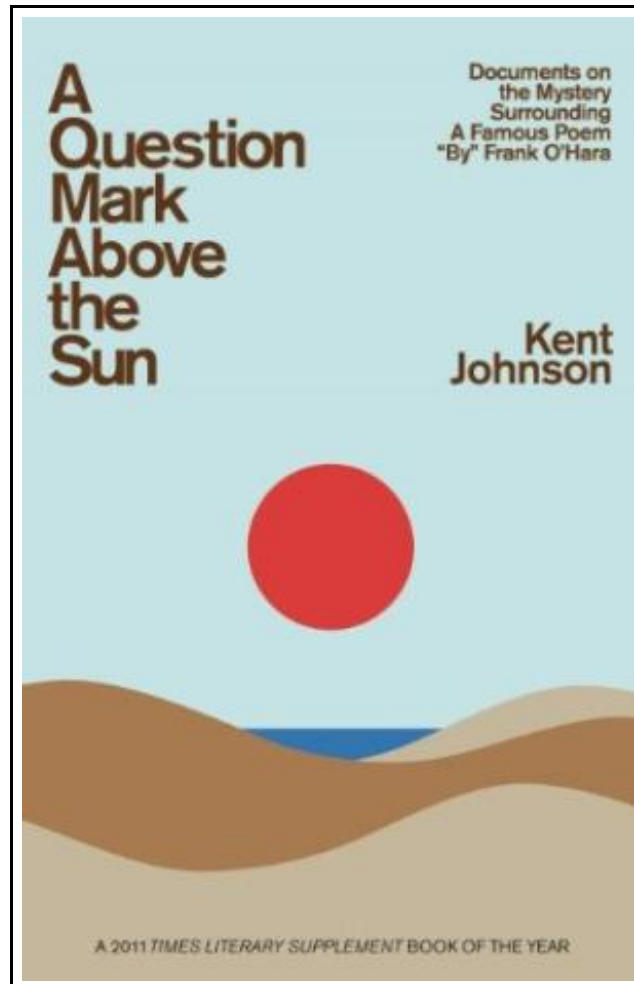


## A Question Mark Above the Sun: Documents on the Mystery Surrounding a Famous Poem By Frank O'Hara



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### ***Reviews***

*Very good e-book and useful one. It is actually rally fascinating through studying period. I found out this publication from my i and dad recommended this ebook to understand.  
(Kassandra Ledner)*

## A QUESTION MARK ABOVE THE SUN: DOCUMENTS ON THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING A FAMOUS POEM BY FRANK OHARA

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Starcherone Books. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 240 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.4in. x 1.0in. At the end of last year, an extraordinary work of detective criticism briefly appeared, despite legal threats. Kent Johnson's *A Question Mark Above the Sun* (Punch Press) movingly speculates that Kenneth Koch forged one of Frank O'Hara's greatest poems as a posthumous tribute to his friend. A noir-ish middle also recounts some very funny run-ins with the English avant-garde. Shame on the poets who forced its redaction and suppression. Jeremy Noel-Tod, *The Times Literary Supplement*, including a previous edition of *A Question Mark Above the Sun* as one of its 2011 Books of the Year. What you have in your hands is a kind of thought-experiment. It proffers the idea that a radical, secret gesture of poetic mourning and love was carried out by Kenneth Koch in memory of his close friend Frank O'Hara. I present the hypothesis as my own very personal expression of homage for the two great poets. The proposal I set forward here, nevertheless, is likely to make some readers annoyed, perhaps even indignant. Some already are. A few fellow writers, even, have worked hard through legal courses to block this book's publication. The forced redaction of key quotations herein (replaced by paraphrase) is one result of their efforts. In this self-described thought experiment—part fiction, part literary detective work, and always daring—Kent Johnson proposes a stunning rewrite of literary history. Suppressed upon initial release, this is a one-of-a-kind book by one of our most provocative contemporary authors. This book of experimental criticism is, at the least, of forensic interest to readers of poetry and, at the most, a study in extremes of generosity and stinginess. Whether it is Johnson (*Homage to the Last Avant-Garde*) who is generous and his detractors stingy or vice versa is...



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