



Donkey Gospel: Poems

By Tony Hoagland

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Winner of the 1997 James Laughlin Award of The Academy of American Poets

In *Donkey Gospel*, his second collection of poems, Hoagland's generous effervescence and a jujitsu cleverness sparkle through line after line confronting negotiation and compromise, gender and culture, sex and rock music, sons and lovers, truth and beauty, and so forth. From the boy who speaks only in "Kung Fu" dialogue to the guy who visits a lesbian bar and sees his mother, this often funny and always thoughtful book of poems offers fresh, surprisingly frank meditations on the credentials for contemporary manhood.

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Donkey Gospel: Poems By Tony Hoagland Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Hoagland's second book (after *Sweet Ruin*, Univ. of Wisconsin, 1992) is nothing if not imaginative. Invigorated by "fine distress," these graceful, perceptive poems gaze without blinking at what we hide from each other and ourselves when "head and heart/ are in different time zones." Concerned by broken bonds of love and "climaxes of suffering" in a "dying, burning world," he's also angry, at times startlingly, at "dividedness" of identity, which makes it impossible to remain connected in a "hated prison" of selfhood. With refreshing candor (one poem defends D.H. Lawrence, "who opened up the world"), Hoagland reveals what happens when giving and "tenderness" are blocked by a "mass of delusions" and "strange appetites." Acceptance of "joy and suffering made one at last" transforms what appear to be extravagant elegies into genuine empathy for "all our yearnings, all our fears." This award-winning collection illuminates conflicts between individual desire for self-actualization and the "dark and soaring fact" of experience. To be alive, for Hoagland, "hurts exquisitely." For larger poetry collections. A Frank Allen, Northampton Community Coll., Tannersville, PA
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From Kirkus Reviews

Winner of a new award in James Laughlins honor, this second book by the New Mexico State writing professor is an uncomplicated series of autobiographical poems about being a guy, from backslapping tales of sexual exploits to the dark and dirty truths of male animalism. Despite the poets feminist anxieties, hes proud of belonging to the tribe of predators and celebrates his first steps towards manliness in poems such as Dickhead and Muy Macho, in which deep-voiced woman- fuckers scratch themselves and worry about their penis size. In Adam and Eve, he confronts his violent tendencieshis desire to slug a woman in the face for denying him sexand elsewhere deals with his homophobia by sleeping with a man (Lie Down with a Man) and going to a lesbian bar (Mistaken Identity). Apologetic for being cerebral, Hoagland pays homage to Auden and D.H. Lawrence in poems that recognize ones powerful vocabulary and the others ability to fight, and fuck, and crow in prose. Hoaglands dumb optimism carries some of his poems beyond their sloppy diction and countercultural correctness. -- Copyright ©1998, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

"A self-proclaimed postmodern confessionalist poet, Hoagland's poems gather and distribute so much energy it's like he's a boxer ? or a wrestler ? rather than a writer."*T Magazine*, "My 10 Favorite Books: James Franco"

"An absolutely refreshing compound of playfulness and depth . . . There's no warmed-over theory on this menu, and no guilt casserole, either: [*Donkey Gospel* is] an unabashedly spicy book. But if one is seduced into the book by the wildness of its flavors, one finishes by loving its substance."*Heather McHugh*

"There's an underlying sweetness to the poems, and a gratitude for having survived so much human fecklessness (including, of course, one's own), and these complicate the poems' anger and puzzlement and rumple their severe surfaces. The resulting mixture has much of the complexity of a personality that willingly weathers its own perplexities and experiences, rather than striking a pose of competence and trying to ride out the storm."*William Matthews*

"If the current flush of identity politics has you bored beyond belief, you might look for a deeper and truer

sense of identity and belief in *Donkey Gospel*. It's a powerful second book, and leaves one wanting more." *Harvard Review*

"In *Donkey Gospel*, Hoagland's puzzlement is palpable, and yet his effervescent cleverness and original twists of phrase, sometimes aphoristic in philosophical content, ring true. His poetry of cultural irony, contemporary sexuality, and the absurdities of the rock-and-roll generation leave us with a satisfied feeling of having ridden out a storm." *Ruminator Review*

"[A] series of autobiographical poems about being a guy, from backslapping tales of sexual exploits to the dark and dirty truths of male animalism . . . Apologetic for being cerebral, Hoagland pays homage to Auden and D. H. Lawrence in poems that recognize one's powerful vocabulary and the other's ability to fight, and fuck, and crow in prose." *Kirkus Reviews*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jessica Jennings:

What do you consider book? It is just for students as they are still students or it for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that issue above. Every person has various personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great and important the book *Donkey Gospel: Poems*. All type of book could you see on many methods. You can look for the internet sources or other social media.

William Prentice:

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David Bruce:

The book untitled *Donkey Gospel: Poems* contain a lot of information on the idea. The writer explains the woman idea with easy technique. The language is very clear and understandable all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was authored by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of time of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book in anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice go through.

Lauren Zavala:

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