



Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns

By Andrea Gibson

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Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns By Andrea Gibson

Andrea Gibson's dynamic and energetic first book, Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns, challenges us to not only read, but to react. Hauntingly vivid, the poems march through a soldier's lingering psychological wounds, tackle the curious questions of school children on the meaning of "hate", and tangle with a lover's witty and vibrant description of longing. Gibson's poems deconstruct the current political climate through stunning imagery and careful crafting. With the same velocity, the poignant and vacillating love poems sweep the air out of the room. It's word-induced hypoxia. Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns whispers with a bold and unforgettable internal voice rich with the kind of questioning that inspires action.

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Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns By Andrea Gibson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

Andrea Gibson does not just show up to pluck your heart strings, she sticks around to tune them. If being floored is new to you, ya might wanna grab a cushion. Beware the highway in her grace and the crowbar in her verse. -Buddy Wakefield, "Live for a Living"

To call her one of the best poets would be a gross understatement. Her words cut so sharply and completely they cannot be shaken. She is a rare artist who forever changes those who experience her poems." -Carlos Andres Gomez, HBO Def-Poet/co-star Spike Lee's Inside Man

About the Author

Queer Pushcart-nominated poet/activist/independent rockstar Andrea Gibson has toured with fellow indie-chick Ani DiFranco and poet Buddy Wakefield. Cementing her niche in the upper echelon of the national performance poetry scene, Andrea has placed in the top four of five international finals stages and was the first ever Women of the World Slam Champion in 2008. She has been showcased on Free Speech TV, the BBC, the documentary "Slam Planet" and indie radio stations worldwide. Andrea has self-released four CDs, Bullets and Windchimes, Swarm, and When the Bough Breaks, and Yellowbird.

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Excerpt from: POLE DANCER She pole-dances to gospel hymns. Came out to her family in the middle of Thanksgiving grace. I knew she was trouble two years before our first date. But my heart was a Labrador Retriever with its head hung out the window of a car tongue flapping in the wind on a highway going 95 whenever she walked by. So I mastered the art of crochet and I crocheted her a winter scarf and one night at the bar I gave it to her with a note that said something like, I hope this keeps your neck war. If it doesn't give me a call... ...And I want to grow strong as the last patch of sage on a hillside stretching towards the lightning. God has always been an arsonist. Heaven has always been on fire. She is a butterfly knife bursting from a cocoon in my belly. Love is a half moon hanging above Baghdad promising to one day grow full, to pull the tides through our desert wounds and fill every clip of empty shells with the ocean. Already there is salt on my lips. Lover, this is not just another poem. This is my goddamn revolt. I am done holding my tongue like a bible. There is too much war in every verse of our silence. We have all dug too many trenches away from ourselves. This time I want to melt like a snowman in Georgia, 'til my smile is a pile of rocks you can pick up and skip across the lake of your doubts. Trust me, I have been practicing my ripple. I have been breaking into mannequin factories and pouring my pink heart into their white paint. I have been painting the night sky upon the inside of doorframes so only moonshine will fall on your head in the earthquake. I have been collecting your whispers and your whiplash and your half-hour-long voice mail messages. Lover, did you see the sunset tonight? Did you see Neruda lay down on the horizon? Do you know it was his lover who painted him red, who made him stare down the bullet holes in his country's heart? I am not looking for roses. I want to break like a fever. I want to break like the Berlin Wall. I want to break like the clouds so we can see every fearless star, how they never speak guardrail, how they only say fall.

Users Review

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