



Litany for the City (New Poets of America Series)

By Ryan Teitman

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"This is a powerful first collection by a very promising new writer—successfully announcing what will hopefully be a long-lasting presence in contemporary poetry."—*MARY: A Journal for New Writing*

Selected by Jane Hirshfield from over six hundred manuscripts, *Litany for the City* is the winner of the tenth annual A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize. Of *Litany for the City*, Hirshfield writes, "This book carries both startling imaginative freedoms and the impulsion of a person navigating the terrain of his life by means of the star-chart and sextant of poems—a winning combination, for me."

Ryan Teitman is a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. He holds an MA and MFA from Indiana University. He currently lives in Berkeley, California.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Ryan Teitman's Philadelphia is a place of wonder, horror, and divinity...His poems are surreal, beautiful, and elegiac...*Litany For the City* is a startling, significant debut." --*Hey Small Press!*

"This is a powerful first collection by a very promising new writer--successfully announcing what will hopefully be a long-lasting presence in contemporary poetry." --Gabe Johnson, *Mary: A Journal of New Writing*

"The winner of the A. Poulin first book prize gives us a lot to look forward to...the world is made better by his view." --Grace Cavalieri, *Washington Independent Review of Books*

"In many ways this is a book of devotion, a set of prayers to a world that is both ugly and beautiful—full of sorrow, joy and the bizarre...a powerful first collection by a very promising new writer—successfully announcing what will hopefully be a long-lasting presence in contemporary poetry."

—*Mary: A Journal of New Writing*

"Things are changed by how they are used. Even the hot breath of a resolute sigh, trapped under a blanket at the moment of waking transforms into a 'coat of warmth / that I knew could / never fray.'" —*Southern Indiana Review*

"*Litany for the City* embodies the scope and complexity of an urban setting, as well as the emotive depth and wonder it is to be human. In the end, it is only this muddled and luscious residue of experience with its form fading into fume that one is left with, and Teitman proves it is more than enough." —Todd McCarty, *Gently Read Literature*

"Teitman maps the way only a poet can map, sketching in then blurring out the borders between inner and outer with each line. It is the poetic act of noticing that finds cathedrals everywhere. And language, repetition, is what holds it all together ... This book has a heart that goes beyond the strength of its crafting or imagery. It reminds us of what only poetry can do."—*The Rumpus*

From the Back Cover

"When I first encountered Ryan Teitman's title, I leaned toward the city in it, and that is, to be sure, an abiding presence. But the more I've read this book through, the more I've come to find its heart is in the *litany*: in the persevering faith that words under pressure can charge and change language to something more than itself, that objects and beings can be liberated into new-parsed comprehensions by their protean, heat-pressured praising. The goal of these pages is not a parcel map of experience, but the enacting of a profoundly instrumental relationship to awareness. And this is a becoming that Ryan Teitman has not only wanted to find--he has amply, prodigiously found it." --Jane Hirshfield, *from the Foreword*

"This is a book of sights and insights: A city at dusk, an uncle playing a harmonica, a foreign film at a local opera house--these beautifully observed details all blend into the achievement and purpose of this fine first collection. These intense and eloquent poems, by seeking out the sacred place inside the secular one, remind us at every turn of the meaning of origin and memory." --Eavan Boland

"In *Litany for the City*, Ryan Teitman conjures up a vast, shifting metropolis, one filled with strange, often harrowing, wonders. Simultaneously *all* cities and a place created as if from the imaginations and half-forgotten memories of those who observe it, it spreads glitteringly across our actual and interior landscapes. Here, a child in a museum of curiosities sorts through drawers of increasingly bizarre "things swallowed." Later, a hawk, dipped in kerosene and aflame, flies across the night sky, or a songbird, escaped from a burning house, builds its nest in the shape of its cage. With these often chilling, lush poems, Ryan Teitman creates a dream-like world that is at once fantastic, strangely intimate, and deeply moving. It is one of the finest first books I've read in years." --Kevin Prufer

"A rich and searching sense of desire unites Ryan Teitman's spectacular debut. This is a poetry we can take to heart: 'When the plowblade finds the body / of an old cello under orchard soil / the music of iron / cutting wood is too much / for our ears to bear.' Teitman consoles and instructs in ways that render both metropolitan and internal landscapes utterly bright with life, introducing us to new and delicious worlds worth believing in." --Aimee Nezhukumatathil

About the Author

Ryan Teitman was born in Philadelphia and is a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. He received his BA from Penn State University and worked as a newspaper reporter in and around Philadelphia before receiving an MFA and MA from Indiana University. His poems have appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Sycamore Review*, and *Washington Square*, among other publications. He currently lives in Berkeley, California.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bessie Morris:

This *Litany for the City* (New Poets of America Series) is great publication for you because the content and that is full of information for you who else always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. That book reveal it facts accurately using great plan word or we can claim no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *Litany for the City* (New Poets of America Series) in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous a single. We can say that no e-book that offer you world inside ten or fifteen minute right but this guide already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hey Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt which?

Deborah Allen:

Is it you who having spare time after that spend it whole day simply by watching television programs or just lying on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This *Litany for the City* (New Poets of America Series) can be the respond to, oh how comes? A book you know. You are so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this brand new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

Jennifer Ruiz:

That guide can make you to feel relax. This particular book Litany for the City (New Poets of America Series) was colorful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book Litany for the City (New Poets of America Series) has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Investigator Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. So , not at all of book are make you bored, any it can make you feel happy, fun and chill out. Try to choose the best book in your case and try to like reading which.

Cindy Johnson:

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