



Logorrhea: Poems

By Adrian Louis

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Finalist, 2007 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Poetry

In a torrent of rage, love, and irony, Adrian C. Louis explodes all the myths and hypocrisy of Middle America in the twenty-first century. This is how Walt Whitman or Allen Ginsburg might have written about our post-9/11 world-- where the realities of poverty on Indian reservations and the plight of Hurricane Katrina victims come in second place to the vagaries of Homeland Security. For Louis, both he and our nation face an uncertain future. Like many of us he is trapped in a surreal void of the present, where he is faced with middle age and isolation, the death of loved ones, an unsatisfying job, and the battle against loneliness and self-destruction. He writes as if he has nothing left to lose but then fills the page with bittersweet sorrow for everything that has been lost. Armed with unforgettable images, relentless rhythms, and a dark and scathing humor, Louis takes aim at this American life.

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Editorial Review

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"You don't grow older, you grow better," they say. Several of these poems complain about "the timely demise of King Louis, / the northern Nevada fuck machine." "God, what / a lard ass I've become," Louis sighs, while of the woman he loves, he acknowledges, "you cannot talk--little light / breaks in your eyes when I visit." Yet he can dance for her, and she smiles. He can fit old stories with new barbs. As he tells "The Scorpion and the Frog," the frog's been stung so often that he's immune to just *one* more--unfortunately. In "Jesus Finds His Ghost Shirt," Jesus notices that Mary has gone AWOL along the Via Dolorosa, retreats to the car, rummages in the backseat, and finds another means of resurrection. Louis can ponder defiance and failure, desire and incapacity. He can sound more than ever like his poetic peer, Charles Bukowski. But unlike -Bukowski, he can speak, as a self-described half-breed Indian, out of a genuine community, however shattered, which makes him not better, perhaps, but more serious. *Ray Olson*
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Review

"This book is an indigenous flower blooming among hybrid roses. Unique, daring, blowzy, fragrant with life, it is flagrant truth-telling at its deepest, funniest, saddest, and best, a book we all long to read."

--Dorianne Laux, author of *Facts About the Moon*

"Louis . . . shows us a scalded world made purer through his vision." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Adrian C. Louis is a one-man wrecking crew who will change the face of poetry until we all wake up and honor him. His visions and choice of words are rhythmic, defiant, and timeless." --*Bloomsbury Review*

About the Author

Adrian C. Louis was born and raised in Nevada and is an enrolled member of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe. Louis has written ten books of poems, mostly recently *Evil Corn* (Ellis Press, 2004) and *Bone & Juice* (Northwestern, 2001). He is also the author of the novel *Skins* (Ellis Press, 2002), which was made into a major motion picture in 2002, and a collection of short stories *Wild Indians & Other Creatures* (Nevada, 1997). Louis has won various writing awards, among them a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Bush Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund. In 1999, he was elected to the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. He currently resides in Minnesota and teaches at Minnesota State University in Marshall.

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Jeffrey Osburn:

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