



you are a little bit happier than i am

By Tao Lin

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Poetry. Asian American Studies. Winner of the 2005 December Prize. Reading Tao Lin is like looking the wrong way down Frank O'Hara's ear trumpet at a 21st century Mayakovski IM-ing Lili Brik. This book is fun, smart, manic and ecstatic; it puts on a clean shirt before it loads the gun. "YOU ARE A LITTLE BIT HAPPIER THAN I AM has the energy and oddness of a thing that is rising very fast that is not supposed to be rising, or that is supposed to be rising but for a moment you forget that, and for a moment this ordinary thing looks very strange and exciting"--Deb Olin Unferth. Tao Lin is 23 and lives in New York City. Visit his blog reader-of-depressing-books.blogspot.com.

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Editorial Review

Review

I accidentally read Tao Lin's table of contents as a poem; it's a hilarious poem and it hooked me right away. This is also how his poems work--they are aggressively mundane. But behind that aggressive pose those poems are real and free. And really funny. There's a confidence in them that not only undercuts their surface pose, but makes that pose something meaningful. --Matthew Rohrer, author of *A Green Light*

you are a little bit happier than i am has the energy and oddness of a thing that is rising very fast that is not supposed to be rising, or that is supposed to be rising but for a moment you forget that, and for a moment this ordinary thing looks very strange and exciting--sun, ball, airplane, tree. That is Tao Lin's poemish pieces. --Deb Olin Unferth, author of *Revolution*

Tao Lin's *you are a little bit happier than i am* is poetry unadorned, offering a stark portrait of our modern world and its alienation. Pulling no punches, and drawing the reader in with seemingly simple statements, Tao Lin is one of the most inventive and insightful authors I have read this year. --
www.largeheartedboy.com

Tao Lin's poetry collection gracefully proves the theorem that nothing can be truly sad if it isn't also funny...Lin's is a harsh, insular world of sadness (the word appears countless times throughout the slim volume), hopelessness and despondency. But for every ounce of drear and self-pity, Lin inserts an arresting aside: this poem has all this between each stanza / ...someone on the largest dose of tylenol cold in the history of the world falling off a sixty-story building at night." --Jeb Gleason-Allured, *Timeout Chicago*

Reading Tao Lin's *you are a little bit happier than i am* (Winner of the 2005 December Prize) is reminiscent of covertly eavesdropping on a private conversation over a cup of hallucinogen-spiked black coffee. The reader cannot help but feel a little like a transfixed interloper. The poems are powered by direct, confessional statements which reveal the interior life of a twenty-something year old who is an alternately suicidal and homicidal, infatuated, self-conscious and self-loathing, ambivalent observer/poet. --Aysha Somasundaram, Bookslut.com

From the Publisher

Reading Tao Lin's poetry is like looking the wrong way down Frank O'Hara's ear trumpet at a 21st century Mayakovsky IM-ing Lili Brik. It's fun, smart, manic and ecstatic; it puts on a clean shirt before it loads the gun.

About the Author

Tao Lin was born in 1983. This is his first book.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Irene Weinstein:

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