

Graywolf Press announces



DON'T LET ME BE LONELY by Claudia Rankine

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In **DON'T LET ME BE LONELY: AN AMERICAN LYRIC (September 2004)**, a powerful sequence of TV images, lyric essay and poetry, Claudia Rankine explores the personal and political unrest of our volatile new century.

“Claudia Rankine here manages an extraordinary melding of means to effect the most articulate and moving testament to the bleak times we live in I’ve yet seen. It’s master work in every sense, and altogether her own.” —**ROBERT CREELEY**

“Claudia Rankine’s DON'T LET ME BE LONELY is an utterly riveting, extraordinary, original and unforgettable book. It defines its own genre. It resurrects, in one’s admiration for the poet as well as the narrator, the notion of autobiography, while defining wholly new terms for the *real*. In a world obsessed with, and overrun by, fraudulence, and thus with narcotizing ‘reality’ versions of the most intimate aspects of human life, Rankine breaks out of virtual emotion, reawakens honesty, and exhibits such raw political courage and aesthetic bravery it sends tremors through the entire field of American poetry as she finds it. And all this aside, it is a mesmerizing meditation, a brilliant rant, a terrifying account of our lives. Sad, funny, smart, tart, nuanced, blunt: one can only say thank you to such a poet.” —**JORIE GRAHAM**

Award-winning poet Rankine, well known for her experimental multi-genre writing, fuses the lyric, the essay, and the visual in this politically and morally fierce examination of solitude in the rapacious and media-driven assault on selfhood that is contemporary America. With wit and intelligence, Rankine strives toward clarity—of thought, and imagination—while always arguing that recognition of others is the only salvation for ourselves, our art, and our government.

Don't Let Me Be Lonely is an important new confrontation with our culture, with a voice at its heart bewildered by its inadequacy in the face of race riots, terrorist attacks, medicated depression, and the antagonism of the television that won't leave us alone.

Claudia Rankine is the author of three collections of poetry, *Nothing in Nature Is Private*, *The End of the Alphabet*, and *Plot*. She teaches at the University of Houston.

Lyric Essay, 172 pages, 5.5 x 10, Paperback Original w/ b & w photographs and illustrations (1-55597-407-4), \$14.00, September 2004

PRAISE FOR DON'T LET ME BE LONELY:

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“Claudia Rankine’s *DON'T LET ME BE LONELY* adroitly uses any means Necessary—word, picture, gloss, meditation, anecdote, citation and more—to move an insomniac apprehension of our evacuated moment. Overmedication meets overmediation in this otherwise unrhymed lament mourning killing cure after killing cure. Somber, disconsolate, matter-of-fact, macabre: an eerie, unsettling book.” —**NATHANIEL MACKAY**

“It is a time of confounding darkness and metastasizing media imagery in our society, a time when even death and the self have been reconfigured as commodities. Yet it is precisely ‘in the dark,’ and alone, where the poet paradoxically invokes and affirms the necessary presence of the other.

Claudia Rankine here mobilizes the narrative power of prose and the transrational logic of poetry to create a work of singular courage, lucidity and imaginative force.” —**MICHAEL PALMER**