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Application For Release From The Dream: Poems



Synopsis

The eagerly awaited, brilliant, and engaging new poems by Tony Hoagland, author of *What Narcissism Means to Me*. The parade for the slain police officer goes past the bakery and the smell of fresh bread makes the mourners salivate against their will. •from "Note to Reality" Are we corrupt or innocent, fragmented or whole? Are responsibility and freedom irreconcilable? Do we value memory or succumb to our forgetfulness? *Application for Release from the Dream*, Tony Hoagland's fifth collection of poems, pursues these questions with the hobnailed abandon of one who needs to know how a citizen of twenty-first-century America can stay human. With whiplash nerve and tender curiosity, Hoagland both surveys the damage and finds the wonder that makes living worthwhile. Mirthful, fearless, and precise, these poems are full of judgment and mercy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Tony Hoagland's poetry captures a sense of our culture in a way unlike any other contemporary poet. To say that the powerful poems in this book are unique, and layered with both psychological and spiritual dimensions, would be an understatement. Collectively, there is a poignancy common to the poems, many presented as narratives, personal histories retold that are comic, sad, and biting. One of Tony Hoagland's greatest poetic gifts is how he summons the underlying sentiments that pervade our lives with poems that have a wide audience appeal. This poet is someone worth reading, his poetry authentic, moving, and worthy of our respect. Dan Guenther

Wow. Can I have a crush on a poet after reading one poem? I do now, but it doesn't end at one poem. Tony Hoagland has created 81 pages of perfection in poetic form. Seeing the world through his eyes is an incredible high -- simple scenes elevated by observations laced with humor and reality. Tony Hoagland, you get us.

Hoagland is consistently one of the best, most surprising poets around. His poems are funny the way life can be funny -- not ha-ha funny but in the very real and odd way life twists and turns. You would think at some point he would go all in for the joke, but he never loses his very subtle and unnerving grasp of the deeply human tension in even the most trivial events. His books just keep getting better and better. This is no exception to that rule.

This is an important book of poetry, especially for readers dissatisfied with the contemporary American lifestyle. This book explores the problems with our technological, shopping-hungry, euphemistic culture, in very interior yet direct language. Hoagland began as a confessional poet and since his chapbook "Hard Rain" has become more of a poet of social critique. Here, his poet interweaves both, creating both messages and mysteries. This is a must read book not just for poetry but for living. Very funny, to boot.

A couple brilliant works interspersed with some mundane opEd quality works. What I like I really like. The rest filled space.

Aside from a few didactic moments, this is a book of wonderful self-exploration and boiling tensions between art and suffering, desire and despair.

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