



Black Life

By Dorothea Lasky

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*You are born and it is to a black life
Full of abuse and strange things . . .*

In her brazen second collection, Dorothea Lasky cries out beyond prophecy and confession, through to an even more powerful empathy. On the verge of becoming pure substance and sensation, *Black Life* is emotion recollected not in tranquility, but in radically affirming intensity.

*I leave and I am a black life . . .
And I want to
Be what you made me to be*

Dorothea Lasky is the author of three collections of poetry. Educated at the University of Massachusetts, Washington University, and Harvard University, she currently teaches at Columbia University.

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Black Life By Dorothea Lasky Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

All poetry that matters today has feelings in it, says Lasky deep into her second book, which illustrates how that statement can be true of poems that are also hip and ironic. Though cut of the same cloth as her debut, *Awe*, this second book is more grown up, darker, burdened with greater weight and responsibility—though still full of flippant, adorable, and silly asides: The orderly staff waits with the bleach/ Asking me where the diapers are, I do not know, she remarks in a poem about a father's failing battle with Alzheimer's disease. The death of a father and the loss of a husband come up again and again. Religious faith is also a frequent subject, handled in the same quirky, faux-childish voice as everything else in Lasky's world: There is only Jesus waiting in my closet/ Like he has been since I was 4 with his red eyes. If these poems, cast in ragged columns and haphazard lines, often seem dashed off, that's part of the point: they surge with immediacy, meaning and not meaning what they say: There is a lot to be sad about/ But no point in feeling that sadness/ In a world that has no capacity/ To take your sadness from you in a kind way. (Apr.)

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Review

"If these poems, cast in ragged columns and haphazard lines, often seem dashed off, that's part of the point: they surge with immediacy, meaning and not meaning what they say."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Through her specific, strange, and always riveting voice, Lasky reveals truths about the self in relation to all that inspires awe, be it a sexual relationship and its unraveling or metaphysical confrontations with holiness. These poems read as prophetic and yet incredibly immediate."—*American Poet*

"Balancing a ferocious confessional poetry with her trademark levity and playfulness, Lasky examines the dark undercurrents of what it means to exist with an uncertain expiration date, the very sadness and strangeness of humanity."—*Rain Taxi*

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About the Author

Dorothea Lasky is the author of *Thunderbird* (Wave Books, 2012), *Black Life* (Wave Books, 2010), and *AWE* (Wave Books, 2007). She is also the author of six chapbooks: *Matter: A Picturebook* (Argos Books, 2012), *The Blue Teratorn* (Yes Yes Books, 2012), *Poetry is Not a Project* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2010), *Tourmaline* (Transmission Press, 2008), *The Hatmaker's Wife* (2006), *Art* (H_NGM_N Press, 2005), and

Alphabets and Portraits (Anchorite Press, 2004). Born in St. Louis in 1978, her poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Laurel Review*, *MAKE magazine*, *Phoebe*, *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Tin House*, *The Paris Review*, and *6x6*, among other places. She is a graduate of the MFA program for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and also has been educated at Harvard University, University of Pennsylvania, and Washington University. She has taught poetry at New York University, Wesleyan University, Columbia University, Fashion Institute of Technology, Heath Elementary School, and Munroe Center for the Arts and has done educational research at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, the Philadelphia Zoo, and Project Zero.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kim Townsend:

The publication untitled Black Life is the publication that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to anyone. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, and so the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of Black Life from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Raymond Hollander:

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