

THE WASH

ADAM CLAY

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DESCRIPTION

Rich in river imagery and an intense sense of the passage of time, *THE WASH* explores the incessant music that permeates journeys with a destination unknown. Interweaving the voices of John Clare, Audubon, Roethke, and others, the poems depict a landscape of loss in which language and images provide the only concrete platform on which to stand. Ending with an elegy for the self-portrait and an acceptance of the inevitability of decay, the speaker discovers "the stillness of frames both comforts and terrifies." Playing a lyrical voice against the limits of silence, *THE WASH* uncovers the voices that can be made, and heard, in and out of nature.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Adam Clay's poems have appeared in *DENVER QUARTERLY*, *THE IOWA REVIEW*, *BARROW STREET*, *BLACK WARRIOR REVIEW*, *FASCICLE*, *CUTBANK*, *THE NEW ORLEANS REVIEW*, *CONDUIT*, *OCTOPUS MAGAZINE*, *FREE VERSE*, and elsewhere. A chapbook, *CANOE*, is available from Horse Less Press. Born and raised in Mississippi, he holds an MFA from the University of Arkansas and an MA from The Center for Writers at The University of Southern Mississippi. He now lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan with his wife, Kimberley.

On every page of *THE WASH*, Adam Clay discovers new kinds of eloquence, elegance, excitement, and inward experience from which a language springs that can flow forward through present space (wherever we are now) and backward (often to old England), then downward into the still reaches of the heart where the waters give us our own faces back. . . . This book is an eye-ful and an ear-ful. It teems with originality.

—Michael Heffernan

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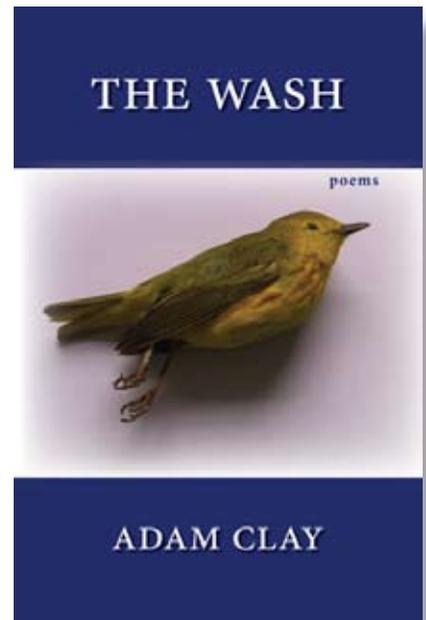
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