

## Helium Button Poetry

HeliumOur Numbered DaysKeep This To YourselfI Shimmer Sometimes, TooEven the Saints AuditionThe Body Is Not an ApologyHeliumFortunatelyDate & TimeNothing Is OkaySt. TriggerpeludaThe Only Worlds We KnowI'll Fly AwayFat Girl Finishing SchoolScratchLord of the ButterfliesForgive Yourself These Tiny Acts of Self-DestructionPatricideNo Matter the WreckageNew American Best FriendThe Last Time I'll Write About YouThe WilliesMy, My, My, My, Myletters to the person i wasCrown NobleswallowtailGetting StitchesGive Me a God I Can Relate ToNo Gravity 2The FutureAin ' t Never Not Been BlackSINKFloating, Brilliant, GoneDepression & Other Magic TricksAutopsyA Love Song, A Death Rattle, A Battle CryStill Can't Do My Daughter's HairIf My Body Could SpeakBound

### Helium

The Last Time I ' ll Write About You is popular Filipino YA and romance writer Dawn Lanuza ' s debut collection of poetry. Featuring beautiful, relatable poems about first love, this book is the perfect companion for anyone who has loved, lost, and emerged anew.

### Our Numbered Days

Nothing is Okay is the second full-length poetry collection by Rachel Wiley, whose work simultaneously deconstructs the lies that we were taught about our bodies and our beings, and builds new ways of viewing ourselves. As she delves into queerness, feminism, fatness, dating, and race, Wiley molds these topics into a punching critique of culture and a celebration of self. A fat positive activist, Wiley's work soars and challenges the bounds of bodies and hearts, and the ways we carry them.

### Keep This To Yourself

"Getting Stitches" is Rudy Francisco's first chapbook. It consists of 16 poems. The collection is an exploration of human experience. It's a journey of introspection, acknowledgement and growth. It is both laughter and heartbreak, honesty and sarcasm, faith and questions. It's confident, awkward and everything in between. It's falling apart, being stitched up and hoping the wounds heal properly.

### I Shimmer Sometimes, Too

Phil Kaye ' s debut collection is a stunning tribute to growing up, and all of the challenges and celebrations of the passing of time, as jagged as it may be. Kaye takes the reader on a journey from a complex but iridescent childhood, drawing them into adolescence, and finally on to adulthood. There are first kisses, lost friendships, hair blowing in the wind while driving the vastness of an empty road, and the author positioned in the middle, trying to make sense of

it all. Readers will find joy and vulnerability, in equal measure. Date & Time is a welcoming story, which freezes the calendar and allows us all to live in our best moments.

### Even the Saints Audition

Helium is the debut poetry collection by internet phenom Rudy Francisco, whose work has defined poetry for a generation of new readers. Rudy's poems and quotes have been viewed and shared millions of times as he has traveled the country and the world performing for sell-out crowds. Helium is filled with work that is simultaneously personal and political, blending love poems, self-reflection, and biting cultural critique on class, race and gender into an unforgettable whole. Ultimately, Rudy's work rises above the chaos to offer a fresh and positive perspective of shared humanity and beauty.

### The Body Is Not an Apology

Sana Abuleil presents a poetry collection of forgiveness, reflection, and self-love. letters to the person i was is a poetry collection about the past, the present, and the future. It is a compilation of every word Sana wishes someone had said to her when she was a young girl. When she was struggling. Falling. Breaking. Bleeding. It is a reflection of the responsibility she feels to say these words to everyone waiting to hear them. Consisting of four chapters titled "the innocence," "the refusing," "the understanding," and "the growing," the collection is meant to take the reader on a journey of pain and hope, reinforcing the idea that life is still worth living. That life is always worth living.

### Helium

Written after the death of his mother, Donte Collins' s Autopsy establishes the poet as one of the most important voices in the next generation of American poetry. As the book unfolds, the reader journeys alongside the author through grief and healing. Named the Most Promising Young Poet in the country by the Academy of American Poets, Collins's work has consistently wowed audiences. Autopsy propels that work onto the national stage. In the words of the author, the book is a spring thaw -- the new life alongside the old, the good cry and the release after.

### Fortunately

Language so often fails us. In his highly anticipated follow up to Helium, Francisco has created his own words for the things we cannot give name to. English is the shiniest hammer I own, but it' s also the only thing in my toolbox. Nolexi noun no · lex · i | \ n -lek-si \ Definition of nolexi: 1 : a word or phrase that does not exist or has no direct translation in a particular language I' ll Fly Away uses Francisco' s invented lexicon as the palette to paint an intimate portrait of Black life in America — one that praises joy and grace without shying away from the hard truths confronting all of us today.

### Date & Time

Neil Hilborn's highly anticipated second collection of poems, *The Future*, invites readers to find comfort in hard nights and better days. Filled with nostalgia, love, heartbreak, and the author's signature wry examinations of mental health, this book helps explain what lives inside us, what we struggle to define. Written on the road over two years of touring, *The Future* is rugged, genuine, and relatable. Grabbing attention like gravity, Hilborn reminds readers that no matter how far away we get, we eventually all drift back together. These poems are fireworks for the numb. In the author's own words, *The Future* is a blue sky and a full tank of gas, and in it, we are alive.

### Nothing Is Okay

*Ain't Never Not Been Black* foregrounds Black pleasure Black pain and Black love in unflinchingly Black ways. Engaging with themes of masculinity, racism, love, and joy, Johnson is at once critical and creative. His spoken word performance transfers effortlessly to the page, with poems that will encompass you. This is a book about blackness and survival, and how in America these are inseparable. In a world of individualism, who can you hold close? In a world of danger, what makes you feel safe? From a poem written in the form of a syllabus, to another about the time his grandmother literally saved his life, Johnson's creative expression is constantly enacting the feminist mantra, "the personal is political."

### St. Trigger

"When you're dumb enough for long enough, you're gonna meet someone too smart to love you, and they're gonna love you anyway, and it's gonna go so poorly," Neil Hilborn writes in his debut full-length collection, *OUR NUMBERED DAYS*. In 2013, Hilborn's poem "OCD" went viral, and has amassed over 11 million views to date. While this collection ruminates on love, heartbreak, and mental illness, these poems are anything but saccharine. Hilborn uses the same humor and self-deprecation that propelled "OCD" to success in order to make his unmatched vulnerability all the more powerful. Ultimately, Hilborn is a poet of the people: his work is accessible, honest, and entertaining; a revitalizing entry in contemporary poetry.

### peluda

"To build a world that works for everyone, we must first make the radical decision to love every facet of ourselves... 'The body is not an apology' is the mantra we should all embrace." —Kimberlé Crenshaw, legal scholar and founder and Executive Director, African American Policy Forum "Taylor invites us to break up with shame, to deepen our literacy, and to liberate our practice of celebrating every body and never apologizing for this body that is mine and takes care of me so well." —Alicia Garza, cocreator of the Black Lives Matter Global Network and Strategy + Partnerships Director, National Domestic Workers Alliance "Her manifesto on radical self-love is life altering—required reading for anyone who struggles with body image." —Claire Foster, Foreword Review Humans are a varied and divergent bunch with all manner of beliefs, morals, and bodies. Systems of oppression thrive off our inability to make peace with difference and injure the relationship we have with our own bodies. *The Body Is Not an Apology* offers radical self-love as the balm to heal the wounds inflicted by these violent systems. World-renowned activist and poet Sonya Renee Taylor invites us to reconnect with the radical origins of our minds and bodies and celebrate our collective, enduring strength. As we awaken to our own indoctrinated body shame, we feel inspired to

awaken others and to interrupt the systems that perpetuate body shame and oppression against all bodies. When we act from this truth on a global scale, we usher in the transformative opportunity of radical self-love, which is the opportunity for a more just, equitable, and compassionate world—for us all.

### The Only Worlds We Know

A collection of poems by Rudy Francisco

### I'll Fly Away

Crown noble, the breathtaking debut by Bianca Phipps, navigates the crossroads of familial ties and forgiveness. Phipps ruminates on the ways we are shaped as humans. Is it nature or nurture? Is it fate or a happen chance? What teaches us to love our generational inheritance, no matter how harmful? Phipps takes us to the most intimate parts of family matters in hopes of understanding as a means of overcoming.

### Fat Girl Finishing School

Singer 's highly anticipated debut book collects and transforms work from his ten years as a mainstay of the NYC poetry scene. With work that ranges from the laugh out loud funny to the silence and rage of loss, *Forgive Yourself These Tiny Acts of Self-Destruction* is a must read. As the book unfolds Jared guides the reader through fresh takes on the discussion of body image and body positivity side by side with all too familiar discussions of mental health, anxiety and suicide. It explores the complex cloth that is American culture and New York in particular, taking extra time to examine his identity as a Jewish American and how that underpins the authors daily experience. *Forgive Yourself* is a modern handbook for finding yourself and your place without losing your way.

### Scratch

The *Willies*, poet and scholar Adam Falkner 's first full-length collection, offers a sharp and vulnerable new portrait of the journey into queerhood in America. In a voice that Dr. Cornel West heralds as “ prophetic in bleak times,” Falkner departs from a more familiar coming out narrative to center the stories of several dueling selves. Masquerading white boy. Child of an addict. Closeted varsity athlete. Grief-struck friend. Through snapshots of “ *Willies* ” both tragic and humorous, merciless and humane, Falkner offers powerful new ways of understanding the intersectional linkage that binds queer shame to cultural appropriation. The *Willies* traverses Wu-Tang Clan listening parties to pine forests in the Catskill Mountains to rehab waiting rooms to depict the various costumes we hide within toward navigating the legacies of toxic masculinity, and the many interior tensions synonymous with queer life. At it 's core, *The Willies* asks us to consider not Who will we become if we give name to that which scares us? but rather Who might we become if we do not? Drifting seamlessly between the scholarly and conversational, Falkner 's poems showcase a versatility of language and a courageous hunger toward naming, as Aracelis Girmay proclaims it, “ the ways we devastate one another daily but also the ways we might be opened into love. ”

### Lord of the Butterflies

The Only Worlds We Know is a nuanced and tactile look at both addiction, and what comes after. Patient meditations on loss and the land where the people we love live and are also buried. Includes poems such as "Waking Up Naked", "The Addict, a Magician", "The Pill", and "Just Yesterday" that have been watched by millions online.

### Forgive Yourself These Tiny Acts of Self-Destruction

One of the most recognizable young poets in America, Olivia Gatwood dazzles with her tribute to contemporary American womanhood in her debut book, *New American Best Friend*. Gatwood's poems deftly deconstruct traditional stereotypes. The focus shifts from childhood to adulthood, gender to sexuality, violence to joy. And always and inexorably, the book moves toward celebration, culminating in a series of odes: odes to the body, to tough women, to embracing your own journey in all its failures and triumphs.

### Patricide

This is the first book by actress, poet, and feminist Blythe Baird. In 2014, she represented Chicago as the youngest competitor at the National Poetry Slam. Her work has been published or featured by The Huffington Post, Write Bloody, EverydayFeminism, Button Poetry, Chicago Literati, Banango Street, and Wicked Banshee, among others.

### No Matter the Wreckage

One part mixtape, one part disorientation guide, and one part career retrospective, Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre's debut looks you directly in the eye and doesn't let you flinch. Ranging from justice to love, community action to personal reflection, *A Love Song, A Death Rattle, A Battle Cry* is a dedication to craft. Clocking in before the rest of us are even awake, the book wastes no time. It does the work and beckons you to follow. A compilation of poems, lyrics and essays from the UN presenter, MC, and two-time National Poetry Slam champion, this book is a love song tucked into a grenade, a necessary call that demands a response.

### New American Best Friend

In honor of national poetry month, during the month of April, poets across the globe participate in an activity called "30 for 30." It involves writing 1 poem for every day of the month. Rudy Francisco takes on the challenge each year and pushes himself to write a poem each day. After the task was completed, he published the poems in the form of a chapbook called "No Gravity." Part 1 was released in 2015 and this is the follow up. "No Gravity 2" is a collection of poems that cover a gamut of topics. It discusses love, heartbreak, culture, politics and family.

### The Last Time I'll Write About You

Andrea Gibson ' s latest collection is a masterful showcase from the poet whose writing and performances have captured the hearts of millions. With artful and nuanced looks at gender, romance, loss, and family, Lord of the Butterflies is a new peak in Gibson ' s career. Each emotion here is deft and delicate, resting inside of imagery heavy enough to sink the heart, while giving the body wings to soar.

### The Willies

In Keep This To Yourself, grief is a violent machine, with each new poem Kerrin McCadden unscrews every bolt of this grief until it falls apart. McCadden cuts through the many layers of loss as she writes about how it moves through her family like a sickness. What good is silence in the face of trauma? McCadden plunges into the truth, and shows us the world on the other side.

### My, My, My, My, My

In her electrifying debut, Franny Choi leads readers through the complex landscapes of absence, memory, and identity. Beginning in loss and ending in reflective elation, Floating, Brilliant, Gone explores life as a brief impossibility, “ infinite / until it isn ' t. ” Punctuated with haunting illustrations by Jess X. Chen, Choi ' s poems read like lucid dreams that jolt awake at the most unexpected moments.

### letters to the person i was

One of the most original performance poets of her generation, Melissa Lozada-Oliva has captivated crowds across the country and online with her vivid narratives. Humorous and biting, personal and communal, self-deprecating and unapologetically self-loving, peluda (meaning “ hairy ” or “ hairy beast ” ) is the poet at her best. The book explores the relationship between femininity and body hair as well as the intersections of family, class, the immigrant experience, Latina identity, and much more, all through Lozada-Oliva ' s unique lens and striking voice. Peluda is a powerful testimony on body image and the triumph over taboo.

### Crown Noble

Through poems that utilize hypnotic religious imagery, Nava EtShalom carries readers through an emotional seascape; crashing over on waves of worship. Fortunately unpacks ideas about relationships with family, God, and the self. Each poem is pieced together carefully as a house of cards, and ends solid as a stitched spine. What is left in the body after identity has been assumed? Where does one go to reconcile generations of trauma? EtShalom, is unafraid to ask questions with seemingly impossible answers.

### swallowtail

Swallowtail, a collection of poetry by Brenna Twohy is a deep dive into the dissection of popular culture, and how the brightness and horrors of it can be mirrored into the daily lived experiences of women in America.

### Getting Stitches

Rachel Wiley, an author who holds many intersecting identities has written *Fat Girl Finishing School* as a love letter to her living body. When confronted with fatphobia, racism, misogyny, and shame each poem chooses self love, despite society's expectations of conformity. More than just a book about one single identity *Fat Girl Finishing School* makes intersectionality dimensional. This is a book steeped in experience, every story is striking, powerful, and unmistakably palpable.

### Give Me a God I Can Relate To

Suddenly stricken by a life-threatening condition, the author finds she has slipped into an alternate reality—one in which her life and her livelihood are no longer to be counted on. Oddly, she finds it 's a place populated with not just hope, but a newfound appreciation for the splendors of the physical world. Her fight to stay alive, while terrifying, is deeply vibrant.

### No Gravity 2

Aaron Coleman's *St. Trigger*, winner of the 2015 Button Poetry Prize, investigates race and gender in contemporary America through a constantly shifting series of structures, forming its own boundaries in one poem only to break and reshape them in the next. Narrative shatters into pure lyric and reforms in an instant. Coleman's poems define themselves -- sharp and blazing and wholly new.

### The Future

*Depression & Other Magic Tricks* is the debut book by Sabrina Benaim, one of the most-viewed performance poets of all time, whose poem "Explaining My Depression to My Mother" has become a cultural phenomenon with over 50,000,000 views. *Depression & Other Magic Tricks* explores themes of mental health, love, and family. It is a documentation of struggle and triumph, a celebration of daily life and of living. Benaim's wit, empathy, and gift for language produce a work of endless wonder.

### Ain ' t Never Not Been Black

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### SINK

Porsha O's debut poetry collection soars with the power and presence of live performance. These poems dip their hands deep into the fabric of black womanhood, pulling out all of its threads. This book establishes Porsha O firmly in the lineage of black queer poetics, pulling equally from Audre Lorde and Danez Smith. This is a book of gentle breaking and inventive reconstruction. This is a book of self-care, and community-care - the pursuit of building a world that will keep you alive.

### Floating, Brilliant, Gone

Claire Schwartz's Bound, a winner of the 2016 Button Poetry Prize, investigates queerness, Jewish identity, and kinships through a consuming series of narrative and lyric. As the book unfolds, each poem is like a ballad engulfing readers in vulnerability, politics, love, and the body. Schwartz's work is not only beautiful, it is like a flame-alive and captivating.

### Depression & Other Magic Tricks

Still Can't Do My Daughter's Hair is the latest book by author William Evans, founder of Black Nerd Problems. Evans is a long-standing voice in the performance poetry scene, who has performed at venues across the country and been featured on numerous final stages, including the National Poetry Slam and Individual World Poetry Slam. Evans's commanding, confident style shines through in these poems, which explore masculinity, fatherhood, and family, and what it means to make a home as a black man in contemporary America.

### Autopsy

Top selling poet Sarah Kay releases her debut collection of work from the first decade of her career. Following the success of her breakout poem, "B," No Matter the Wreckage presents readers with new and beloved work that showcases Kay's skill for celebrating family, love, travel, history, and unlikely love affairs between inanimate objects ("Toothbrush to the Bicycle Tire"). Both fresh and wise, Kay's poetry allows readers to join in on her journey of discovering herself and the world around her. - 2011 TED speaker (recording has been viewed 3 million times online) - First book, "B" was ranked #1 Bestselling Poetry Book on Amazon - Featured on HBO, American Public Radio, Huffington Post, CNN.com, etc. - Founder and Co-Director of Project VOICE

### A Love Song, A Death Rattle, A Battle Cry

Even The Saints Audition: A book of poems exploring the relationship between blackness, shame, and what it is to live a life tied to the church. Rich with historical context and a deeply engaging personal narrative.

### Still Can't Do My Daughter's Hair

Blythe Baird's *If My Body Could Speak* is a celebration of girlhood and all of its struggles and triumphs. In poems that dig deep into sexuality, acceptance of the body, survival of trauma, and learning to love yourself in spite of everything telling you not to, Baird's voice is a rich addition to her generation. Searing, soaring, and heartbreaking, *If My Body Could Speak* balances the softness of femininity with the sharpness that girls are forced to become. Includes poems such as "Girl Code 101", "When the Fat Girl Gets Skinny", and "Pocket-Sized Feminism" that have been watched by millions online.

### If My Body Could Speak

Desire é Dallagiacomo's debut book grapples with the intersections of family and mental health. Sink asks and answers hard questions about grief, lineage, death and all manner of inheritance. What is one left with when they come from a family that has nothing to its name but loss? Throughout, Dallagiacomo weighs the cost of what it is to be alive and a woman in a landscape that makes being alive and a woman uninviting. Sink approaches grief and depression not as a tourist, but instead with the power and nuance of someone who has survived and made the most of their survival.

### Bound

Dave Harris's stellar debut takes a nuanced look at the complexities of black masculinity. *Patricide* weighs those complexities and how they impact a lineage of black boys who fight to become men in the image of their fathers. More than just a book about fear or death centered on being black in America, *Patricide* illuminates the internal struggle to be the best man possible with the shadow of other men at your back. Through poems on loss, music, college, and family strife, Harris examines how time shifts and changes, despite so much of a life 's architecture staying the same. Ultimately, *Patricide* opens itself up to reveal a story of many threads, one that finds a way to tie together in unexpected and joyful ways.

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