



PRESS RELEASE

NEW MICHIGAN PRESS IS PLEASED to announce the release of Joshua Poteat's *For the Animal*.

In a litany that is both a grand introduction and the mournful aftermath, Joshua Poteat celebrates, serenades, and grieves the animal passing through the frame in an accident and a perfection of timing. Using a rigid formal principle—9 fully-stopped lines per stanza, each opening with “For the animal”—Poteat carves a multi-faceted crystal prism, taking in the white light of anaphora and scattering out unpredictable bands of composite color. The animal too reveals the layered nature of things: it “pulls from the taxidermy an arsenic shawl”; it “takes silence from the milk”; it hears and measures the “sound of whiteness over the city.” Arriving while leaving, the animal is unreliable and steadfast, a witness and accessory, abandoned and preserved. Mimicking the human—or, anthropomorphized by the human—the animal “holds the nail gun,” “removes its wig,” “replaces abundance with Klonopin.” The swelling chords of cognitive dissonance grow deafening until, beyond our perception’s ability and alongside the animal, we visit “the place where names burst like clouds,” climb “a ladder of withering blood,” and finally “survey the atmosphere.” A welcome vision from a heart trapped in a landscape of contradiction.

—ONI BUCHANAN

NMP, 2013. Perfect-bound, 40pp. ISBN 978-1-934832-42-4. Available by mail, at excellent independent booksellers, Amazon, or from our storefront at [newmichiganpress.com/nmp](http://newmichiganpress.com/nmp). For information & for bookstore orders, email us.

ORDER FORM

Yes! We love you, Joshua Poteat! Send me [    ] copies of *For the Animal* at \$9 per copy + \$2 for postage (in USA). I've enclosed cash or a check/money order made out to *New Michigan Press*. Please send my book(s) to:

01 DECEMBER 2013

FOR THE ANIMAL

For the animal goes from the house to the field in phases.  
For the animal gives us a way to reason with God.  
For the animal was a communication and is now a shroud.  
For the animal takes depths to its shins and cuts the terror.  
For the animal is a language of adversary.  
For the animal meets another animal with duty/living light/  
seven folds against the dunes.  
For the animal awakened, unnatural, failed to love.  
For the animal by candlelight washes electric through the  
storm.  
For the animal is ghost, monster and truce.

