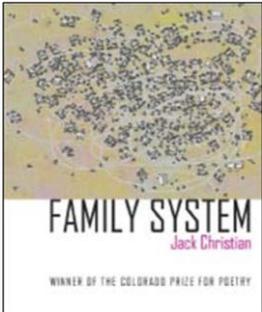




POETRY

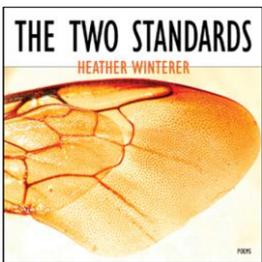


FAMILY SYSTEM Jack Christian

Winner of the 2012 Colorado Prize for Poetry 'Family System' is one of the most specific and clarifying books of poetry I've ever read. It is filled with choices -- made, to be made, not made -- handled with a poetic understanding that what seems arbitrary will be inevitable when said with the right words while singing the right songs. This is a stand-out-first book, introducing a first-rate original talent, doing powerful work, making quintessentially lyrical choices. Don't miss this book." -- Dara Wier
"It seems that Jack Christian's brain is able to produce tiny lucid creatures, have them run and sprinkle over a map of an unknown world with joy, speed, and delight. Even stranger, he's somehow the spiritual offspring of very different ancestors: Pascal's Esprit de géométrie and Scandinavian mythology. 'I was eulogizing a squirrel in a shoebox.' Brilliant". -- Tomáš Šalamun

AUTHOR INFORMATION: Jack Christian was born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1978. He lives in Amherst, Massachusetts, and teaches writing at Westfield State University. This is his first book.

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TWO STANDARDS Heather Winterer

Heather Winterer explores the intimate territory between desolation and consolation, offering a poetry that translates the distances between spiritual endings and beginnings, between an "after what it used to be" and "an arrival". The work enacts the model of St Ignatius Loyola, encouraging the collapse of lines between creation and creativity, time and space, the Christian and Christ, the self and the other. The voice of these poems moves exuberantly through various forms, resisting predication and celebrating its own multiplicity. With lyrical dexterity and humour, Winterer invites us into her world, a world of tangible absences and presences -- where the Mojave Desert and the city of Las Vegas become the unlikely sites of spiritual encounter. The god of this quirky world appears in cars, apartment buildings, and swimming pools and speaks to us through desert plants and birds. Everything from the outside -- natural and unnatural -- spills into the poems and they turn whatever they are given into movement away from darkness and loss, toward possibility, potency and grace.

AUTHOR INFORMATION: Heather Winterer's poems have appeared in 'Hotel Amerika', 'American Poetry Review', 'Fence', and elsewhere. She teaches at the College of Northern New Mexico in Española.

REVIEWS: A post-modern translation of St. Ignatius Loyola's Spiritual Exercises, the pilgrim presence in this fierce book graphs the temporal reality 'where we are all visitors.' Intermediating between the soul's urge toward God and its equally strong urge toward the world, The Two Standards practices a via negativa, proliferating the space—textual and actual—where we become 'another one and yet an other someone else.' The sheer effort of belief permeating The Two Standards will dwell in readers long after the book is closed. — Claudia Keelan

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