



The Endarkenment

Jeffrey McDaniel

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Even if you count yourself among the unredeemed who claim they don't like poetry, buy this book anyway. It will convert you and install a skylight in your brain. Alive and kicking in these pages is the voice of a brilliantly comic consciousness. McDaniel is a candid, frisky survivor: hyperalert, conversant with drugs and sobriety, obscene phone call addicts, 'boner etiquette,' fatherhood, the special hell of family, being an 'emotional warrior' and so much more. He's an urban wordsmith of the first order. You hold in your hands his anguished autobiography, a smorgasbord of famished compassion, tenderness, luminous surprises, and armor-piercing humor. - Amy Gerstler It was an energetic moment when I encountered Jeffrey McDaniel for the first time. Even after a few lines it became obvious that he was someone who produced not only a very vivid but also innovative poetry. A fusion of pain and goodness, comic reliefs, and explosive moments on the crunchy surface of daily horrors/shocks

The Endarkenment Details

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Author : Jeffrey McDaniel

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From Reader Review The Endarkenment for online ebook

Heather Gibbons says

Best book of contemporary poetry I've read in awhile-- wise, funny, humble, heartbreaking, sincere, profane, cracked, lovely, wry. Reminded me a bit of David Berman's Actual Air, a bit of Dean Young, and some Denis Johnson.

Starr Davis says

This is one of my favorite poetry books to read. McDaniel has a way with words, he is such a realist. Most of the poems in this book highlight his flaws, his outlandish views on society, and his darkened childhood. He presents himself, just as he is. His style changes throughout the book, each poem carries it's own flow. Metaphorically, he surprises the reader line by line. His lines are beautifully broken, sometimes he rambles himself into prose-- but for the most part he uses a lot of stanzas. Overall this book is full of variety. It is modern day poetry at it's finest. I would definitely recommend this book to all poets looking to break the rules and be themselves.

Aran says

I knew I had to read this book as soon as I saw the cover. As with most things comedic, deeply serious. Over the course of the book, he gradually drops the comedic ruse. A couple poems in here also gave me inspiration for creative writing exercises to use with students.

Laura A. Warman says

Fantastic book of poetry. It is at the same time the funniest and the saddest book of poetry I have read. McDaniel introduces the book by defining endarkenment which he sees as anti-intellectualism. The introduction made me worried I was about to read some slam poetry but the poems were really great and attentive to form. They used the space on the page while the poems sounded distant at times and close up at others.

Sarah says

The Endarkenment (Pitt Poetry Series) by Jeffrey McDaniel (2008)

C. Varn says

Jeffrey McDaniel's poetry has a manic quality that trips into the surreal and yet he can be rooted in the most brutal realism. While McDaniel has been known in poetry circles for a while before this book as his previous books had been released by Manic D, but this is his first academic press poetry volume and his themes have matured and darkened here. Sobriety's lack and manic struggle run through the entirety of the book: Failed relationships and fatherhood, drugs, surreal imaginary, sexual tension, the problems of the South. His style feels a bit like Dean Young or Tony Hoagland in his metaphors, but his mood is darker. Some particularly stand-out poems are "Oblivion Chiclets" and "Air Empathy." Strongly recommended.

M says

After reading a few of McDaniel's poems online, I was keen to find and read an actual collection of his. Unfortunately, apart from one poem I already knew I liked ("Air Empathy") and a couple of other standouts ("Oblivion Chicklets", "Day 4305") *The Endarkenment* was reasonably good but didn't wow me.

Elyssa says

Jeffrey McDaniel continues to own my soul in a pretty major case of Poet Envy. I have all his books and he never lets me down.

Mozart says

I loved this book. McDaniel has great lines that are in the middle of fantastic poems. So he is flash and substance. and boy does he know how to end a poem. I never thought poetry could be entertainment ya know. Like i have always read it to be inspired and to learn more about myself the world and just experience the beauty of words, but here with McDaniel its like watching your favorite guilty pleasure (action movie, trash tv)... but now insert literary excellence with the staying power of that guilty pleasure,eh!

Simply fantastic. I borrowed this book from the library and will be purchasing soon. One of those books that should be visited weekly, if not daily!

Grace says

I like poems that discuss serious subjects. I like poems that are a bit grotesque and dark, but still have beautiful language. Quite a few of the poems in this collection have those elements. Jeffrey McDaniel's collection is real, raw, and honest. He doesn't leave out the ugly parts. Instead, he writes about them in ways that are emotional and beautiful (while still maintaining the honesty). "Oblivion Chiclets" is my overall favorite, though other poems also have amazing, moving lines. Surprisingly, in this collection there are also some funny poems. I typically am not drawn to funny poems, but I did find some of McDaniel's amusing. There really is a good variety of poems (tone, style, content) in his collection. Still, for me the greatness of this collection rested in the wrenching poems about broken families and drug addictions. Much of my own poetry deals with difficult matter inspired from my life, and I really appreciate what McDaniel has done in this collection. Powerful.

Danielle says

This is one of the best poetry books I've read in a long time. It's meaty enough for poetry lovers, but its humor makes poetry accessible to casual readers. With poems like "Boner Etiquette," how could this not be a great book?

Donald Armfield says

This is my third collection of McDaniel's work. Daily horrors mixed with the humor of truth. This guy will crack you up.

Favorites: (to name a few)

- Origins
- Summer of Stationary Road Trips
- The Pool
- The Soul Farmer
- don't touch it
- Good
- Watch the Closing Doors.

Katharine Coggeshall says

If there's only one book of poetry you read, let it be this one. Although I couldn't relate directly to the author's writings on drug use, low-income neighborhoods, and the male perspective, I found his poetry mesmerizing. He has incredible imagery and talent for delivery without being obtuse or tangential. The delight is not in the topics, it's in the author's execution. Wonderful book!

Corin says

3.5

Karen says

Often very surreal, Jeffrey McDaniel's poems border on the very bizarre. I mean, very few poets could get away with writing a self portrait with a stick of butter. However, while I can't say that I liked all of McDaniel's work, I can say that he provides some one-of-a kind metaphors. Cliche is not in this man's vocabulary (or his poetry). In essence, his work reminds me of Tony Hoagland.

