



Said the Shotgun to the Head

By Saul Williams

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The greatest Americans
Have not been born yet
They are waiting quietly
For their past to die

please give blood

Here is the account of a man so ravished by a kiss that it distorts his highest and lowest frequencies of understanding into an Incongruent mean of babble and brilliance...

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Said the Shotgun to the Head By Saul Williams Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Williams co-wrote and starred in the film *Slam*, was featured in the documentaries *Slam Nation* and *I'll Make Me a World*, and rapped to Rick Rubin-produced tracks on his hybrid album *Amethyst Rock Star*. Following *The Seventh Octave* (1998) and *S/he* (1999), Williams's third print collection (this time with no CD), is described as an "epic," and begins with a chilling epigraph from Paul Robeson on the warped combine of Western values, creativity, star power and suicide. It prefigures the set of toxic contradictions Williams attempts to negotiate, moving quickly into big-fonted oracular mode, channeling "those ships that never sailed/ the ones with their seacocks open/ that lied scuttled in their stalls/ TODAY/ i bring them back/ HUGE AND INTRANSITORY"-simultaneously invoking thwarted ambition, sexual exposure, the Middle Passage, and attempts to "lie" (dissimulate as well as collapse) through it all. Throughout the book, Williams draws on messianic postures and pronouncements that are non-starters, dragging out the most shopworn heresies and tropes: "we will wait through the degenerate course/ of your repeated history/ we will wait for the past to die." Yet such moments are repeatedly undercut by brief, understated bouts of lyrical intimacy and self-scrutiny: "i cannot make/ your past disappear/ only rabbits, my love/ only rabbits." It is through their juxtaposition that readers glimpse the pathos of a poet struggling with a literally unspeakable historical past, and deeply unworkable present-as well as levity in the futility of trying to dispel it all with corporate-backed, art-based bunnies. (A mock interview between a "Journalist" and "Maned Character" delves into the contradictions of being published by MTV.) The end result is an oblique attempt at moving past flawed concepts of gender, violence, race, religion and exchange, proceeding by sheer will and sometimes a "turn the music up" determination. Despite an absurdly overblown conclusion, it works-almost despite itself. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

Amsterdam News [Saul Williams is] a mighty talent. He takes readers on epic voyages into frontiers that offer a refreshing awakening of the mind and a roller coaster ride into an abyss of demons, deities, occult symbols, and more.

Zack de la Rocha , *Said the Shotgun to the Head* is an invitation to live and die in the moment, a confrontation of the politics of empire, a dare to transform oneself in the face of fear and a post 9-11 love song all in one.

The Washington Post Astonishing...poet. The internal rhyme, metrics, and imagery are so fleet...that they're humbling.

About the Author

Saul Williams is an acclaimed poet, musician, and actor. The film *Slam*, which he cowrote and starred in, won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival (1998), and the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. He has contributed to *The New York Times*, voiced Jean-Michel Basquiat in *Downtown 81*, and cut records with Rick Rubin and Trent Reznor. He has spoken at more than 200 universities where his poetry has been added to the curriculum of dozens of creative writing programs, and has taught poetry/performance workshops around the world. He recently starred in the Broadway musical *Holler If Ya Hear Me*. His books include *S/HE*, *„said the shotgun to the head.*, and *The Dead Emcee Scrolls*. He lives in New York. Visit his website at SaulWilliams.com.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Bennett:

Reading a book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world could share their idea. Books can also inspire a lot of people. A lot of author can inspire their very own reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the guides. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need example. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this Said the Shotgun to the Head.

Maritza Berry:

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