



CALL ME BY MY OTHER NAME

“We’ve been digging graves, we’ve been pressing / dirty palms together and aiming vain eyes skyward,” writes Valerie Wetlaufer, whose striking second collection resurrects historical omission & delivers it with refined urgency & narrative grace. *Call Me by My Other Name* is direct in illuminating the archival holes in our queer & trans lineage—always already complicated by bodies & the ever-

changing names we give them—& skillfully guides the lined possibility of poetry to refashion presence in multiple selves at once. Wetlaufer is dexterous in sidestepping anachronistic projections & inflects instead a precise & thoroughly investigated socio-poetic translation that showcases her poetry’s agility in allowing the power of naming to literally translate corporal embodiment. ‘Give everyone a new name,’ writes Wetlaufer, & I can only think: Yes, yes—please. Me, first.” – MEG DAY

VALERIE WETLAUFER

is a teacher, editor, and poet. She holds a BA in French and an MA in Teaching from Bennington College, an MFA in Poetry from the Florida State University, and a PhD in Literature & Creative Writing from the University of Utah, where she was a Vice Presidential Fellow. Her first book, *Mysterious Acts by My People* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2014) won the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Poetry. She lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Call Me by My Other Name is a fierce, unforgettable book about bodies and desire. Told in three voices—two historical figures, and a meta-poetic third voice that connects past to present—Wetlaufer’s story weaves a brutal narrative of how we are taught to masquerade queer gender and yearning. Deeply affecting, the inventive language of these crucial, well-crafted poems transports at the same time as it transcends, embracing ambiguity, balancing intimacy and reserve. This much-anticipated second book by the Lambda Award-winning writer demonstrates that poetry, at its best, is capable of deliverance.



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Valerie Wetlaufer

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