

MANNISH TONGUES

poems by jayy dodd

To *speak in tongues* is to be possessed / overcome by your own body. This collection speaks to these charades of understanding / some things about language, something about possessions & higher powers.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

jayy dodd is a blkx question mark from los angeles, california, based on the internet. they are a writer & editor & performance artist. antagonistically queer & unapologetically blkx, they were raised to be a preaching cowboy—this is the next best thing.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

For me, the unclassifiable beauty of *Mannish Tongues* begins with jayy's take on a poetic line. They can be terse but not intrusively choppy, grand but wary of fake gestures, comfortable with common speech in uncommon language, and then formal as a queen's versifier. Meeting it with subject, they have created a book that is fluid, beautiful and as brave as the origin stories that come from their poems.

Robert Lashley, author of *The Homeboy Songs*

Mannish Tongues travels along and into fraught geographies. [...] I am not claiming that *Mannish Tongues* is macabre. Nor am I claiming that it celebrates resilience. Instead, *Mannish Tongues* names the materials of its architecture with care, and its forms emerge from engaging the price of those materials: within the modern age, after 1492 according to the philosopher Sylvia Wynter, blackness will be produced as commodity, counted in ledgers, ranked in taxonomy, traded across city states and, later, nation states, turned into the material from which fortunes will be made. Those who survive the crossing—from person to commodity—will forge new ways of imagining personhood, languages and practices that mine ancestral memories and ocean floors, tongues that unmake the undoing by creating lives and afterlives. *Mannish Tongues* asks its readers to reckon with the materials out of which memory, desire, family, and faith emerge.

Keguro Macharia