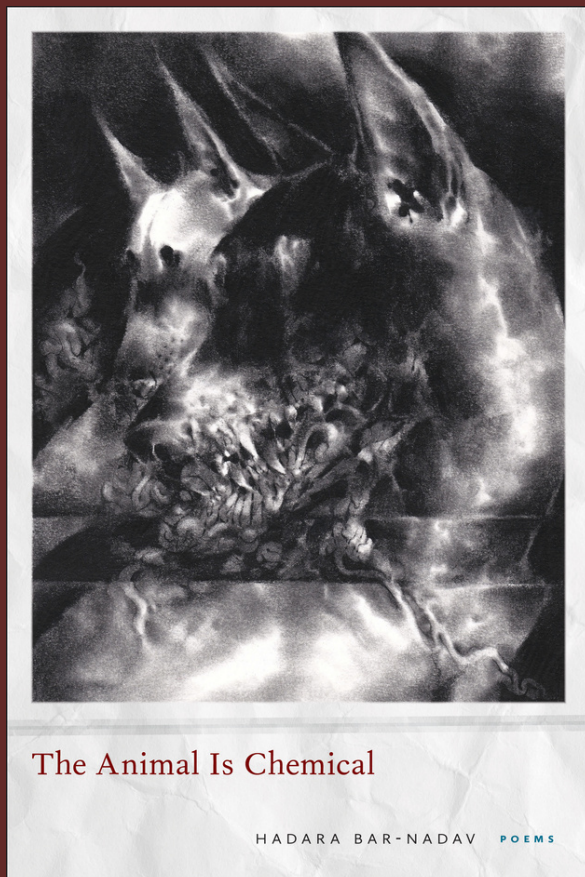


Hadara Bar-Nadav

Media Kit



The Animal Is Chemical

HADARA BAR-NADAV POEMS

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Selected Praise & Past Media

The Animal Is Chemical is a book about the body and the mind—their response to illness and their rejection of, or dependence on, all we do to medicate what we cannot bear to feel. But it also seems to me an extended ars poetica that questions—and prays for!—poetry's ability to heal: "The old wound is speaking / again through my back, / carving its blood alphabet." *Hadara Bar-Nadav* organizes terror through a language so precise that every line proves how beauty can be wrought from pain.

—**Jericho Brown**, Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and Judge of the 2022 Levis Prize in Poetry

Introduction

Lyricaly enacting the cognitive dissonance and embodied contradictions of our contemporary age, *Hadara Bar-Nadav's The Animal Is Chemical* collects innovative poems that straddle the frontiers of language and scientific knowledge. She brilliantly draws on her own experience as a medical editor and her family's history of Holocaust survival to write into the hybrid legacy of Western medicine: part clinical empiricism, part human fallibility and moral bankruptcy. Displaying a robust formal range, these poems move from feverish elegies to drug-pamphlet erasures, tangible articulations of *Bar-Nadav's* epigenetic, cultural, and memorial inheritance as a writer navigating chronic illness and pain. In these pages, Nazi medical experiments, pharmaceutical literature, and manifestations of intergenerational trauma collide in the lyrical archive of *Bar-Nadav's* latest collection, winner of the 2022 Four Way Books Levis Prize in Poetry. Just as she illuminates the paradox of time – that we may think of the past as something gone and yet always present in context and legacy – *Bar-Nadav* proves the enduring ambivalence of pharmakon, that antidote which poisons us, the medicine that kills. This febrile, fierce book casts spells and confronts illusions, ignites grief and awe, and challenges our assumptions about what it means to heal our bodies, our families, and our shared histories. Perhaps this work fulfills the specious salvation it describes in its opening pages, performing an exorcism of truth-telling that harnesses the heat of a "myth in which a god sets us / on fire and then sets us free."



About Hadara Bar-Nadav

Hadara Bar-Nadav is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, the Lucille Medwick Award from the Poetry Society of America, and other honors. Her award-winning books include *The New Nudity* (Saturnalia Books, 2017); *Lullaby* (with Exit Sign) (Saturnalia Books, 2013), awarded the Saturnalia Books Poetry Prize; *The Frame Called Ruin* (New Issues, 2012), Editor's Selection/Runner-Up for the Green Rose Prize; and *A Glass of Milk to Kiss Goodnight* (Margie/Intuit House, 2007), awarded the Margie Book Prize. She is also the author of two chapbooks, *Fountain and Furnace* (Tupelo Press, 2015), awarded the Sunken Garden Poetry Prize, and *Show Me Yours* (Laurel Review/Green Tower Press, 2010), awarded the Midwest Poets Series Prize. In addition, she is co-author with Michelle Boisseau of the best-selling textbook *Writing Poems*, 8th ed. (Pearson, 2011). Her poetry has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Believer*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The New Republic*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. She is a Professor of English and teaches in the MFA program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.



from *The Animal is Chemical*

from “Dybbuk”

*Someone is trying to burn the girl
out of me.*

*Diamonds line my eye sockets,
diamonds in my fever-lit brain.
My neck, a fat matchstick.*

*I am such spectacular light—shock
of incarnadine that ignites
even the shadows.*

*There are no shadows here, only
five golden finches rising*

*like a hand into the blistering
crown of a cherry tree.*

*A myth in which a god sets us
on fire and then sets us free.*