

LAWRENCE GIFFIN

Christian Name

ABOUT THE BOOK :

Christian Name is the first full-length book of poems by Lawrence Giffin. It culls poems begun in 2005, when the poet Eric Baus introduced Giffin to linguistic studies on the “feral-child” Susan Wiley, better known by her medical pseudonym “Genie.”

There is nothing more terrifying than the thought of being unable to name or even to recognize one’s terror. And yet, as Jacques Lacan wrote in a 1948 lecture, “A child who does not yet speak reacts differently to punishment than to brutality.” Instead of attempting to give voice to the mute child, the poems in *Christian Name* seek to expand her silence to all aspects of private and public life. Through tortuous grammatical constructions, one-liners, perverted non-sequiturs, and appropriated language, *Christian Name* affirms not so much that language is at bottom mute material but that it’s provisional, that speaking and writing are integral to the ongoing production of social contracts.

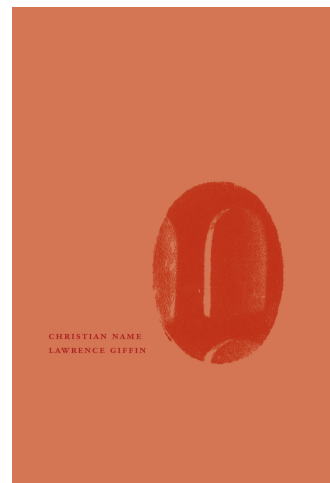
ADVANCE PRAISE :

... Unlike the teams of specialists and do-gooders who want to right Genie, *Christian Name* furthers her darkness by fusing these private and public spheres ... *Christian Name* is a brilliant and darkly pensive accident, as we all are . . . and it isn’t very funny. —**Robert Fitterman**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lawrence Giffin is the author of *Get the Fuck Back into that Burning Plane* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2009), *Sorites* (Tea Party Republicans Press, 2011), *Ex Tempore* (Troll Thread, 2011), and a split chapbook with Lauren Spohrer, *Just Kids* (Agnes Fox Press, 2012). He lives in Durham, NC.



Poetry | \$16

Perfect-bound

112 pp, 5.5 x 8.25 in.

ISBN 978-1-933254-93-7

Small Press Distribution

Release Date: March 2012

cover artist: Lauren Pakradooni

UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE

is a nonprofit collective publishing new poetry, translations, lost works and artist books.

For more about UDP, visit www.uglyducklingpresse.org

Media contact: Matvei Yankelevich • matvei@uglyducklingpresse.org