

Jean Day

Late Human

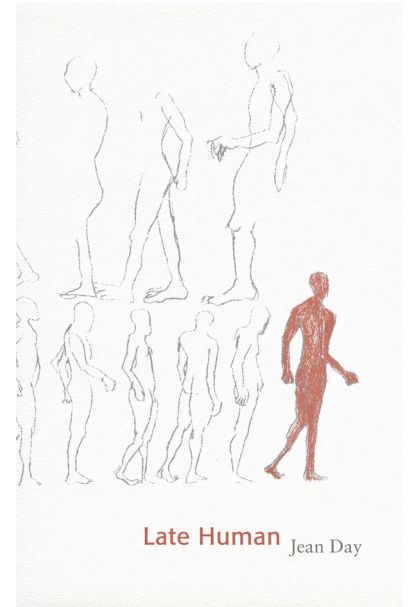
Late Human is a collection of tragi-comic poems on lateness, belatedness, *Weltschmerz*, and borrowing (with a nod to Ernest Mandel's 1975 tome on the twilight of capitalism). The human of the title is multiple, personal, and drenched in the tears of the 21st century. Cracked children's rhymes lead onto an ethnography that takes Helen Mirren's first film appearance as seriously as *Moby Dick*. At the volume's center, three laments honor the "realism / that would send anyone to spasm," a sentiment that crests in the book's title poem before alighting, provisionally, in "Early Bird"—its dawn chorus.

// I want to say this book is wildly funny, but it isn't wild, it's lacquered and biting, like a hair clip. It is Day's mastery that makes each line arrive spontaneous as water over a rock.

— SOPHIA DAHLIN

// These poems really do operate in a knowing-thickness, which is consciousness of having, awkwardly over a long time, lost the way.

— SIMONE WHITE



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Jean Day is a poet and editor. Her books include *Triumph of Life* (Insurance), *Daydream* (Litmus), and *Enthusiasm* (Adventures in Poetry), among others, as well as several chapbooks. She lives in Berkeley, where she works as managing editor of *Representations*, a scholarly humanities journal, and does advocacy work for members of the University Professional and Technical Employees Union (UPTe). Day has benefited from the generous support of the Millay Colony, where *Late Human* was completed.

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