

EASY STREET

a magazine of words and culture



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Poetry / Writers in Residence

Spoken Word & the Aurality of Poetry with Logen Cure, December Poet in Residence

Dec 21, 2015 •

No Comments

I had the luxury of listening to Logen Cure’s poetry before seeing it on the written page. For a person who once suffered a fear of public speaking, becoming a performance poet was a process of forcing herself to *get on stage over and over and over again*.

“[Camera Shy](#)” by Logen Cure

In her discipline, Cure is innately aware of the oral and aural impact of her poems, though she also says the process of honing a poem’s sound comes for her during the revision stages.

“[Preface](#)” by Logen Cure

Poets, she told me, owe it to their work to engage with their audiences. We asked her to say a bit more, which she does beautifully:

Hatchlings

Click on cover to visit Amazon page

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A sci-fi novel about the pursuit of happiness



I loved Katie Williams's debut novel so much that I read it twice —Jason Sheehan for NPR

The power of performing poetry for an audience is undeniable. Recently, I was asked to read at a huge art festival in Fort Worth. I was standing in the street between booths, no mic, reading poems as people teemed by. I never imagined so many people would stop. As the crowd grew, I felt supremely aware of how loud my voice is, how risky it feels to make my work physical, how intense it is to watch people's faces as my stories unfold. I equally love being in the audience at a great poetry show. Poetry has energy unlike anything else.

Reading poetry on the page is also physical, just in a different way. I love holding a book of poems in my hands. I never read a poem just once. I love reading out loud and being able to carry a poem with me. Poetry is about connections and we use all our senses in making connections. All the elements of page and stage together make the magic of poetry.

To me, the page and the stage are inextricable; there should be no distinction in "schools" of poetry. If you see yourself as a "page" poet and you can't embody your work at your readings, you haven't done your job. If you see yourself as a "performance" poet and you can't make it work on the page, you haven't done your job. The endeavor of poetry is excellence in both craft and voice. Don't sell yourself short by not using all the tools available to you.

"Rainmakers, 1891" by Logen Cure

Sound plays a key role in this week's written offering, "Chaparral," a brilliant examination of the violent brilliance of the desert. —*Camille Griep*

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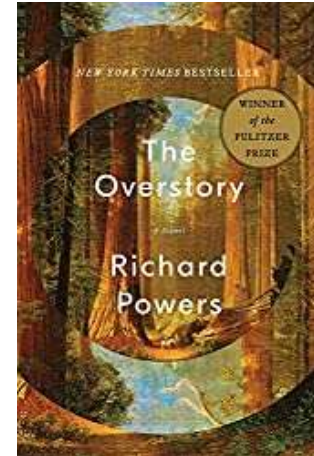
Chaparral

by Logen Cure

They say X-shaped tracks
belong to the roadrunner.

You can't tell if he's coming or going;

A novel about trees by NBA winner Richard Powers



Soars up through the canopy of American literature —Ron Charles, Washington Post

The true story of a wilderness girl turned socialite

he misleads evil spirits.
They say the bird will guide
a lost man to road.

Most things avoid the diamondback.
Venom is absolute.
Roadrunner full tilt,
slim brown and gold body
parallel to the ground;
he hears the rattle,
stops still.

Coiled, fangs ready;
wings kick up a dust cloud;
snake strikes—
one misfire then
again and again—
beak snaps shut
square between those black eyes.
Bird bashes reptile skull over rocks,
narrow neck extending
full height with each blow,
shatters bone—

easier to swallow that way.

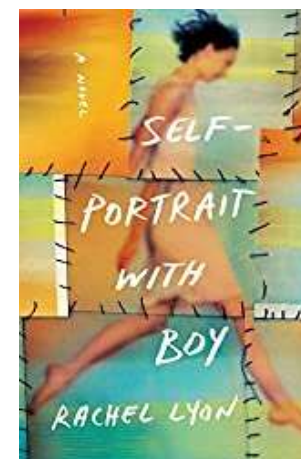
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[Logen Cure](#) is a poet and teacher. She is the author of three chapbooks: *Still* (Finishing Line Press 2015), *Letters to Petrarch* (Unicorn Press 2015), and *In Keeping* (Unicorn Press 2008). Her work also appears in *Word Riot*, *Radar Poetry*, *IndieFeed: Performance Poetry*, *The Boiler*, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from the

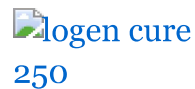


Concise, thoughtful, and well-researched—Kirkus Reviews

**A provocative debut
about the emotional price
of success**

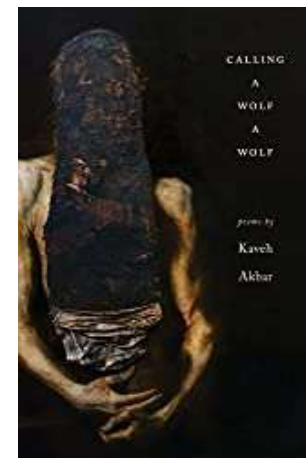


Beautifully imagined and flawlessly executed — Joyce Carol Oates



University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She lives in Texas with her wife.

A poetry debut that boldly confronts addiction



An electric current runs through the collection that keeps the reader going — Library Journal (starred review)

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A new biography of Ezra Pound