



Blessings for the Hands (Phoenix Poets)

Matthew Schwartz

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From *The Sky Inside the Shaking Tree*

What you feel
reveals you.

Watch
for the sustenance
inclined to a source,

enamored of singularity,
quickly here and quickly

gone, shadow from which
the body's courage comes.

Fireflies
apparently stumbling.

I slapped one on my leg.
Its blood glowed.

Blessings for the Hands follows various speakers—often disabled speakers, who never once figure themselves as objects of complaint or self-pity—through the haunted dreamscape of “normalcy.” Indeed, dreams are continuous presences in this unusually subtle and elegant debut collection that juxtaposes physical circumstances with the vast interior life of the imagination. The subjects of *Blessings for the Hands* are real and imagined confrontations—and reconciliations—between family members, friends, strangers, and animals. Matthew Schwartz’s quasi-autobiographical verse complicates and clarifies the emotions waiting just underneath the patterns and expectations of the speakers’ daylight lives, where anger, joy, corporeality, and mortality all seem to collide. For Schwartz, poetry is a sleight of hand that keeps the reader guessing through nearly imperceptible shifts between present vision and absent reality. *Blessings for the Hands* is a lyric reckoning of the tension between the life we are given and the life we are determined to lead.

“*Blessings for the Hands* is emotionally strong and imaginatively wild, distinctive, deeply moving, without an ort of self-pity, and pervaded by ‘compassion down to your fingertips’ (which Chekhov said is ‘the only method’ both to write and to live). This angle of vision is sharp enough to unify much disparate material. The poems are clear and musical and consequently a pleasure to read and reread despite their gravity. I think this may be lasting work.”—Michael Ryan

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From reader reviews:

Kimberly Gomez:

Nowadays reading books be than want or need but also be a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Associate programs you got of course the knowledge the rest of the information inside the book which improve your knowledge and information. The info you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one with theme for entertaining including comic or novel. Typically the Blessings for the Hands (Phoenix Poets) is kind of book which is giving the reader erratic experience.

Teresa Thomas:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled Blessings for the Hands (Phoenix Poets) your thoughts will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe not known for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a reserve then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get previous to. The Blessings for the Hands (Phoenix Poets) giving you yet another experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful information for your better life on this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Robert Lyman:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you should do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among the books in the top checklist in your reading list will be Blessings for the Hands (Phoenix Poets). This book which is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

David Ruby:

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