

GOLD LINE PRESS // NEW RELEASE // FALL 2015

DREA BROWN

dear girl: a reckoning

ABOUT THE BOOK:

dear girl: a reckoning revisits the biography of 18th century poet Phillis Wheatley and reimagines her journey through the Middle Passage to Boston. The poems are a gathering of ghosts whose voices shift from slaver to enslaved, from the mouths of the sacred to haunted dreamer. Echoes of loss and fracture each peer into silences and gaps to uncover narratives of restoration. The poems are letters and mausoleums, voices of ghosts interspersed with theories of transgenerational trauma, that take on a range of forms and innovative strategies that visualize not only grief but a range of possibilities for healing. *dear girl: a reckoning* is a book of conjure that aims to call and quell ghosts of a past not past.

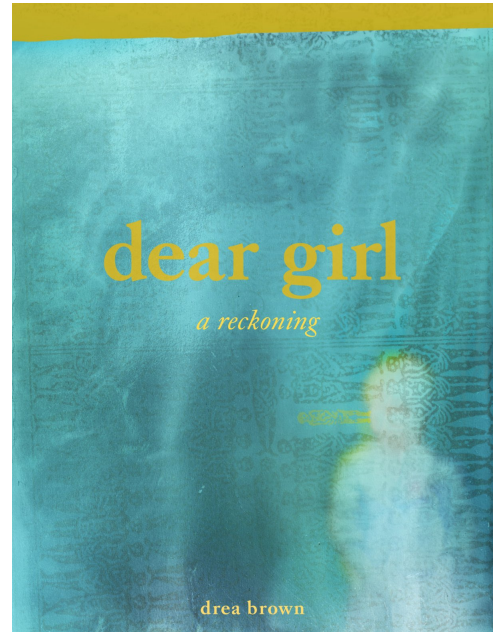
PRAISE:

Bearing an atavistic witness to the Middle Passage, drea brown ambitiously makes to write the enigmatic Phillis Wheatley's biopic, but abandons staid biography for a grotesque and hallucinatory fugue. I wondered, with *dear girl: a reckoning*, is the titular "girl" brown's addressing of Wheatley or the Passage's ghosts addressing brown? The collapse of these two poets into each other echoes what historian Stephanie Smallwood refers to as "anomalous intimacies" on slave ships. We see this blending again in the mix of conceptual, then formal references—the horrifying schematic of the Brooks, M. Nourbese Philip's phantasmagoria, anatomical metamorphosis, and Nathaniel Mackey's nubs populate these frequently nightmarish poems rendered in forms traditional (the sonnet), contemporary (the bop), interdisciplinary (the talk-show interview), and experimental (the erasure). Feverishly urgent, vivid, and unironic, *dear girl: a reckoning* refuses passivity, amnesia, and despair, bringing the bones to our present to begin the work of healing. "The dead will have their due," the author writes. A promise? A threat? A blending.

— Douglas Kearney, judge for the 2015 Poetry Chapbook Competition

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

drea brown's work has appeared in a variety of literary journals and anthologies, most recently *Southern Indiana Review* and *Stand Our Ground: Poems for Trayvon Martin and Marissa Alexander*. A Cave Canem Fellow, drea currently lives in Austin and is a PhD candidate in Black Studies at the University of Texas.



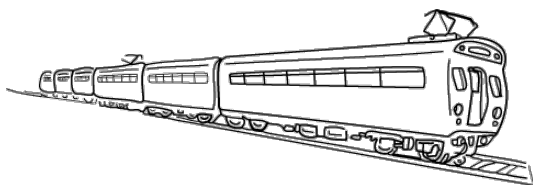
Poetry {\$10}

Perfect-bound

48 pages, 5.3" x 7"

ISBN 9781938900150

Release date: October 2015



GOLD LINE PRESS is a publisher of poetry and fiction chapbooks, and is associated with the University of Southern California's PhD in Literature & Creative Writing Program. For more information about Gold Line, visit <http://goldlinepress.com>.