



Night Sky with Exit Wounds

By Ocean Vuong

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Winner of the 2016 Whiting Award

One of *Publishers Weekly*'s "Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2016"

One of Lit Hub's "10 must-read poetry collections for April"

"Reading Vuong is like watching a fish move: he manages the varied currents of English with muscled intuition. His poems are by turns graceful and wonderstruck. His lines are both long and short, his pose narrative and lyric, his diction formal and insouciant. From the outside, Vuong has fashioned a poetry of inclusion."—*The New Yorker*

"*Night Sky with Exit Wounds* establishes Vuong as a fierce new talent to be reckoned with...This book is a masterpiece that captures, with elegance, the raw sorrows and joys of human existence."—*Buzzfeed*'s "Most Exciting New Books of 2016"

"This original, sprightly wordsmith of tumbling pulsing phrases pushes poetry to a new level...A stunning introduction to a young poet who writes with both assurance and vulnerability. Visceral, tender and lyrical, fleet and agile, these poems unflinchingly face the legacies of violence and cultural displacement but they also assume a position of wonder before the world."—2016 Whiting Award citation

"*Night Sky with Exit Wounds* is the kind of book that soon becomes worn with love. You will want to crease every page to come back to it, to underline every other line because each word resonates with power."—*LitHub*

"Vuong's powerful voice explores passion, violence, history, identity—all with a tremendous humanity."—*Slate*

"In his impressive debut collection, Vuong, a 2014 Ruth Lilly fellow, writes beauty into—and culls from—individual, familial, and historical traumas. Vuong exists as both observer and observed throughout the book as he explores deeply

personal themes such as poverty, depression, queer sexuality, domestic abuse, and the various forms of violence inflicted on his family during the Vietnam War. Poems float and strike in equal measure as the poet strives to transform pain into clarity. Managing this balance becomes the crux of the collection, as when he writes, ‘Your father is only your father/ until one of you forgets. Like how the spine/ won’t remember its wings/ no matter how many times our knees/ kiss the pavement.’”—*Publishers Weekly*

"What a treasure [Ocean Vuong] is to us. What a perfume he's crushed and rendered of his heart and soul. What a gift this book is."—Li-Young Lee

Torso of Air

*Suppose you do change your life.
& the body is more than*

*a portion of night—sealed
with bruises. Suppose you woke*

*& found your shadow replaced
by a black wolf. The boy, beautiful*

*& gone. So you take the knife to the wall
instead. You carve & carve*

*until a coin of light appears
& you get to look in, at last,*

*on happiness. The eye
staring back from the other side—*

waiting.

Born in Saigon, Vietnam, **Ocean Vuong** attended Brooklyn College. He is the author of two chapbooks as well as a full-length collection, *Night Sky with Exit Wounds*. A 2014 Ruth Lilly Fellow and winner of the 2016 Whiting Award, Ocean Vuong lives in New York City, New York.



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Night Sky with Exit Wounds By Ocean Vuong Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

WINNER of a 2016 Whiting Award

***The New York Times* Top 10 Books of 2016**

Featured on NPR's "All Things Considered"

Featured on PBS NewsHour

***Boston Globe* Best Books of Year**

***Huffington Post*'s 12 Great Poetry Books to Read**

***Publishers Weekly* 2016 Poetry Top 10**

***Irish Times* 2016 Favourite Books of the Year**

***Library Journal* 2016 Best Books of the Year**

***Buzzfeed* Most Exciting Books of 2016**

***Bustle* Best Poetry Collections of 2016**

"[A] masterpiece that captures, with elegance, the raw sorrows and joys of human existence." --***BuzzFeed Books***

"The poems in Mr. Vuong's new collection, *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, possess[es] a tensile precision reminiscent of Emily Dickinson's work, combined with a Gerard Manley Hopkins-like appreciation for the sound and rhythms of words...There is a powerful emotional undertow to these poems that springs from Mr. Vuong's sincerity and candor, and from his ability to capture specific moments in time with both photographic clarity and a sense of the evanescence of all earthly things."--**Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times***

"Reading Vuong is like watching a fish move: he manages the varied currents of English with muscled intuition....His lines are both long and short, his pose narrative and lyric, his diction formal and insouciant. From the outside, Vuong has fashioned a poetry of inclusion."--***The New Yorker***

"Extraordinary." --***Los Angeles Times***

"Ecstatic, bawdy, haunted, and brilliant with the pressures of its arrival."--***Boston Globe***

"...[T]errifying, heartbreaking, surreal, and lyrical-I'm not quite sure how a poet can fit so much humanity into so few words. Ocean Vuong creates and poses alternate universes within these poems. He stands at the feet of American poetry and unties the masters' shoelaces. *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* is a must read and re-read, a book that will be cherished." --***Lambda Literary Review***

"[A] haunting and fearless debut." --***Publishers Weekly***

"This book, with all of its fears, is probably what you've been hoping for."--***Kenyon Review***

"This original, sprightly wordsmith of tumbling pulsing phrases pushes poetry to a new level." --**2016 Whiting Award citation**

"In Vuong's "Night Sky," the entry and exit wounds are real, torn open by gunshot and "misfired" words, but

his poems insist we can be made whole by rapture."--*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Vuong's major contribution in *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* is to push back against the inclination to let fear define the exile's life." --*LA Review of Books*

"[O]ne reason Vuong's debut collection *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* feels so exquisite, so necessary, is that he offers another way to hold the present moment." --*Georgia Review*

"Vuong's powerful voice explores passion, violence, history, identity--all with a tremendous humanity." --*Slate*

"[A] debut that will cement Vuong's status as one of the most important new poets writing today." --*Rain Taxi*

"Vuong's pitch-perfect approach, through the legacy of war and forced displacement, shows us why we can't afford to let him remember them alone."--*The London Magazine*

"At a time when poets are resigned to making boredom a commodity, [Vuong] reminds us that the limits of intimacy are an exhilarating frontier, and that the most urgent communications begin with the overture of letting down one's defenses."--*The Rumpus*

"*Night Sky with Exit Wounds* is the kind of book that soon becomes worn with love. You will want to crease every page to come back to it, to underline every other line because each word resonates with power."--*LitHub*

"Occasionally there is a book so exquisitely realized that a reviewer wants simply to point to it and say "read this." Ocean Vuong's *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* is such a book."--*BODY Literature*

About the Author

Ocean Vuong is the author of *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* (Copper Canyon Press, 2016). His poems appear in *Kenyon Review*, *The Nation*, *New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Poetry*, and *The American Poetry Review*, which awarded him the Stanley Kunitz Prize for Younger Poets. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, he lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Timothy Brown:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, about to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book can be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the book untitled *Night Sky with Exit Wounds* can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

William Quesada:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray you, why because this Night Sky with Exit Wounds publication written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and publishing skill only for eliminate your own personal hunger then you still skepticism Night Sky with Exit Wounds as good book not merely by the cover but also through the content. This is one guide that can break don't judge book by its include, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Pamela Acuna:

Reading a book to be new life style in this season; every people loves to examine a book. When you examine a book you can get a large amount of benefit. When you read ebooks, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information onto it. The information that you will get depend on what forms of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your study, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself you can read a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and soon. The Night Sky with Exit Wounds provide you with new experience in studying a book.

Kenneth Porter:

In this era which is the greater person or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you are related is just spending your time little but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list will be Night Sky with Exit Wounds. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in becoming precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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