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-Ru Carroll, *The People's Joker*

condition ahuman: a collection of body horror, trauma and trans joy



MEADOW WYAND

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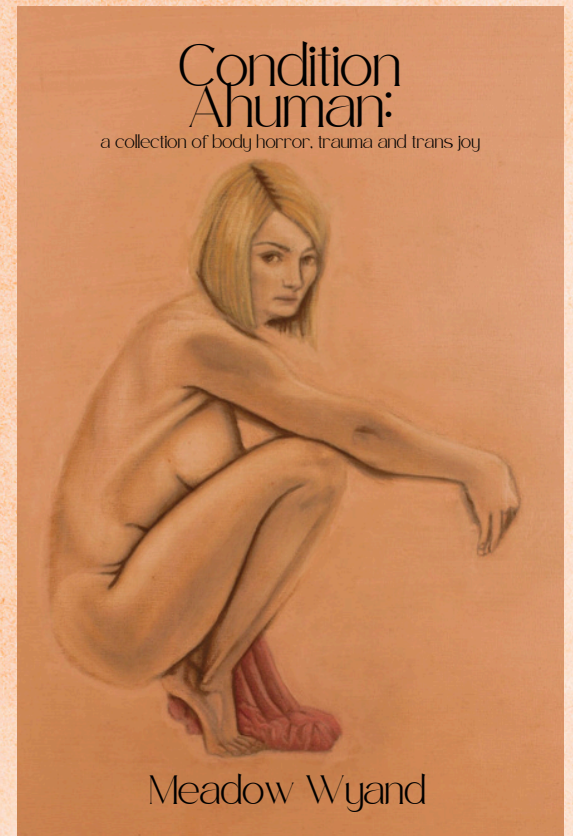
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Coming off of *Diana's Day*, Fourth Dominion's sophomore dark alternative sacrament, songwriter Meadow Wyand puts forth her first collection of poetic intent, *Condition Ahuman: A Collection of Body Horror, Trauma and Trans Joy*.

Coated in imagery of Gothicism and Myth, Wyand's writing draws from confessional poetry to examine how queer trauma manifests in our political climate. These poems speak from the anxieties of fascism to find collective strength and spiritual ecstasy.

The influence of Plath, Rimbaud and Audre Lorde synthesize with theorists like Patricia MacCormack, Foucault and Lacan to place Wyand in dialogue with contemporary poet-musicians like Emma Ruth Rundle & Ross Farrar.



PRESS QUOTES

“Meadow explores the stark, confronting horror of the human experience with a rare deftness and sensitivity that reminds the reader they aren’t alone.”

-Ru Carroll, *Poison Ivy* in ‘The People’s Joker.’ Author ‘Deadnames.’ LGBT+ activist.

“Meadow’s poetry does more than to just offer up the musicality of an accomplished songwriter. These are poems that probe the fissures between the past and present, between the contemporary and the mythological — these are attempts to grasp the root beginnings of gender, despair, and power. These are visions of tomorrow that must be reckoned with now.”

-Harlow Crandall, author ‘Starts Like a Kiss and Ends Like a Curse: The Enigma of Jim Carroll.’

“Meadow is a gorgeous poet. There are so many lines here that I know will be sticking with me — several already take up a cherished, comfortable space. Poignant, Indispensable.”

-Lydia Boettrich, Resident Poet, Artist and Designer, Rochester, NY, Suny MCC.

praise for fourth dominion...

“It’s clear that Fourth Dominion are something special, breathing new life into familiar post-punk tropes with a galloping momentum and passionate lyrics contemplating queer growth through suffering.”

-Tom Bruce, *Distorted Sound Magazine*

“Fourth Dominion make music for the lost and lonely, the angry and hurt & most notably, the queer... hopefully, ‘deathwave’ will make a big impression on the world very soon.

-Dante Joestar, *Tempelores Magazine*

“There’s a feminist sensibility in Wyand’s lyrics and a raw, desperate earnestness. In these songs, Meadow is sacrificing herself by feeding everything she had been to a Promethean flame, so that she can face all the forces arrayed against her and meet them with unyielding defiance.”

-Matthew Graybosch, Author ‘Starbreaker.’

Q&A

Q: How did this book come about?

A: I began writing these poems during my studies with Alan Warner (*Morvern Callar, The Sopranos*) in Aberdeen, Scotland. I was writing in response to the transphobia I experienced in the UK, which made me feel like my traumas were catching up with me. I created a proof of concept for the book that I continued to work on for the next year and a half following my return to the US. The finished project is the culmination of that work.

Q: How did these poems change your relationship with transness?

A: I can be a very introverted person. Poetry is a way for me to connect. Many of the poems in this collection serve functionally as letters to other trans people, sometimes specifically, sometimes generally. Through these dialogues, I felt a connection to my identity that was spiritual. They strengthened my conviction in belonging and resisting.

Q: What is Ahumanism?

Ahumanism is a direct action oriented philosophy developed by Patricia MacCormack in her essay "The Ahuman" and book *The Ahuman Manifesto*. It posits that we should aspire to transcend anthropocentrism by disavowing our identity as "human." It predicates this conception on a framework of animal welfare, queer liberation and disability justice. This separates it from the occasional regressive tendencies found in transhumanism and posthumanism.

Q: Why is self-publishing important?

A: If you have something to say, put your book out! If you find a publisher who seems like a good fit, then great! But don't table your work because you're waiting for an opportunity. The market is already oversaturated, so it's important to examine whether you're releasing your book for the right reasons. Are you writing from the heart?

Q: Talk about the role of music in the book.

A: I see my poetry and music as interrelated, not separate. Musicality of language is important to me. I love Wallace Stevens. I'm always listening to music. My self-talk converses with what I'm listening to. It's part of my thought process.



BIOGRAPHY



Meadow Wyand is a musician, poet, essayist and designer from Rochester, NY. She fronts the gothic rock band Fourth Dominion. Their sophomore LP *Diana's Day* was released in 2024 through Fiadh Productions, with praise being given to the album's lyricism:

“it's clear that Fourth Dominion are something special, breathing new life into familiar post-punk tropes with a galloping momentum and passionate lyrics contemplating queer growth through suffering” – *Distorted Sound*

Throughout *Condition Ahuman*, the influence of Plath, Rimbaud and Audre Lorde synthesize with theorists like Patricia MacCormack, Foucault and Lacan to place Wyand in dialogue with contemporary poet-musicians like Emma Ruth Rundle and Ross Farrar.

Meadow's essay “Were Shakespeare and Kurosawa Marxists?” was published in Johns Hopkins University's *Macksey Journal* in 2020. Her presentation “And It's Pagan Poetry” was delivered at the SAMLA 94 conference in 2022. The landscapes her poems travel are not always comforting, but their reward is profoundly life-affirming.

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Fourth Dominion
PRESS

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