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a full-length collection of poetry

o r i g i n a l k i n k



Author: Jubi Arriola-Headley

Title: *original kink*

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synopsis

In *original kink*, Jubi Arriola-Headley explores kink as mythscape of promised pleasure, lush and lustral, kink as Godzilla's desire for softness and the boy gone "starburst," kink as "the sun-soaked / surface of impossible kick," as "something loose enough / to dance in." At once soliloquy, praise song, and injunction, *original kink* divines the brutal offices and beautiful comforts of syntax, street corners, and superheroes as sites for Black and queer (un)becomings. Accompanied by Eve, Isaac Newton, and a dizzying cast of daddies, Arriola-Headley writes into pleasure's beyond, crafting poems that "glutton at spring's source, / ever lovedrunk on / the insistent gush" of the world and create a dazzling, multiple "we."

biography

Jubi Arriola-Headley (he/him) is a black queer poet, storyteller, and first-generation United Statesian whose work explores themes of manhood, vulnerability, rage, tenderness, and joy. He's a 2018 PEN America Emerging Voices Fellow and holds an MFA in poetry from the University of Miami. His work has been published or is forthcoming in *Ambit*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Nimrod*, *People's World*, and *Southern Humanities Review*. Jubi and his husband split their time between South Florida and Guatemala, where he hopes to pick up enough Spanish to learn what his in-laws are saying about him.



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PRAISE FOR

o r i g i n a l k i n k

“In *original kink*, Jubi Arriola-Headley speaks with a voice that the old folks back home would say sounds like he has an attitude problem: ‘Fix/your face to smile like your teeth/wasn’t butter yellow.’ These poems strut about and roll their necks. There are boasts and insult. But even when this book is sorrowful, it is proud: ‘I still want Daddy/to look at me like he does those dogs. Like I could win.’”

- **JERICO BROWN** -

Pulitzer Prize Winner
author of *The Tradition*

“This bold debut collection interrogates masculinity, family dynamics and state executions of black bodies with unflinching tenderness and a relentless compulsion to expose tyrannies both self-inflicted and externally imposed. *original kink* harnesses bruising, vulnerable language with biblical cadence, narrative precision and a musical dexterity to create a poetic of witness, of hymns, striving to demonstrate that ‘This is how tyrannies are/ built. Like lullabies.’”

- **MALIKA BOOKER** -

Cholmondeley Award Winner
author of *Pepper Seed*

“*original kink* is fixed to trick you with what seems an easy-going syntax. Careful. There’s warmth, sure. Love, yes lord. And even joy. But Jubi Arriola-Headley’s debut doesn’t go easy on religion, desire, power and the intersections where these collide with race, queerness, and gender. Throughout, the poet’s kinkiness is a crafty entanglement of hair texture, knots that upset schemes, and sexuality some demand be cut. *Careful*. Check: ‘I’m a freak, America, a peeping/Tyrone... outside looking in.’ Then the poem set its feet to throw hands. Arriola-Headley has been watching, America. He has some words for us. Perhaps we should step outside?”

- **DOUGLAS KEARNEY** -

Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Award Winner
author of *Buck Studies*

