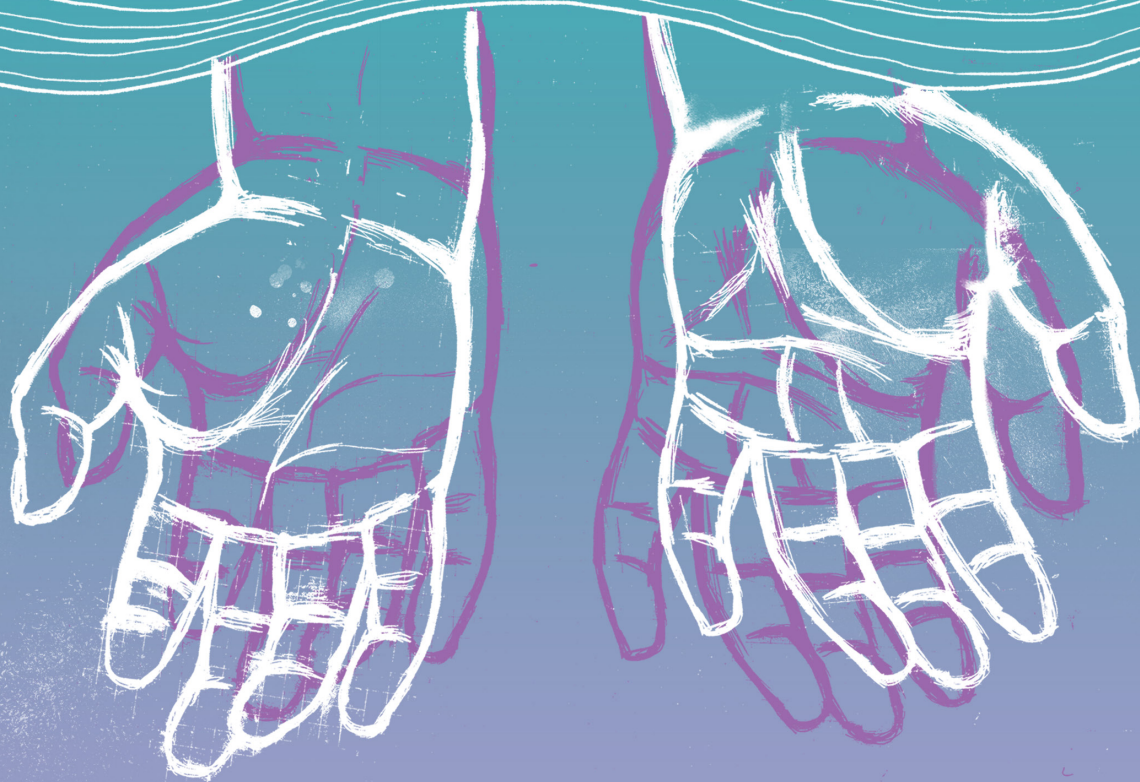


# WHEN THE CHANT COMES



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## When The Chant Comes

by Kay Ulanday Barrett

**Publication Date: September 6th 2016**

Kay Ulanday Barrett has been bringing his unique poetry to audiences for over a decade, unpicking vital political questions around race, disability and gender, and chronicling the everydayness of life in the U.S. Empire with acute perceptiveness and vitality. Now at last a generous selection of his work is available in print. Polemical, tragic, funny and tender by turns, these poems show a master craftsman at the top of his game.

*“When The Chant Comes is fire medicine for the Soul: it calls forth a re-calibration of these rageful times that we are living in. Get this book. Get your healing ya'll.” -Sharon Bridgeforth, author of the bull-jean stories*

*“When the chant comes, we arise, relieved that we aren't alone. When the chant comes, we join in full-throated. When The Chant Comes is pure, queer love that refuses to apologize.” -Vivek Shraya, Author of She of the Mountains and God Loves Hair*

### Author Biography

Kay Ulanday Barrett is a poet, performer, and educator, navigating life as a disabled pilipinx-american transgender queer in the U.S. with struggle, resistance, and laughter. K. has featured on colleges & stages globally; Princeton University, UC Berkeley, Musee Pour Rire in Montreal, and The Chicago Historical Society. Honors include: Chicago's LGBTQ 30 under 30 awards, Finalist for The Gwendolyn Brooks Open-Mic Award, Windy City Times Pride Literary Poetry Prize. He is a recent Poetry Fellow at The Home School and Drunken Boat whose contributions are found in PBS News Hour Poetry, Poor Magazine, Trans Bodies/Trans Selves, Windy City Queer: Dispatches from the Third Coast, Make/Shift, Third Woman Press, The Advocate, and Bitch, and the upcoming anthologies, Outside the XY: Queer Black & Brown Masculinity and Writing the Walls Down: A Convergence of LGBTQ Voices. See their work at [kaybarrett.net](http://kaybarrett.net)

When The Chant Comes: Poems 2003-2016

by Kay Ulanday Barrett

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*When The Chant Comes* is a publication of Heliotrope, an imprint of Topside Press. Heliotrope is the first ever imprint dedicated solely to work by transgender poets. In 2016 Heliotrope will also publish *Reacquainted With Life* by KOKUMQ and *Glamourpuss* by Cat Fitzpatrick. High resolution cover art and author photos available. To obtain files, request information or schedule an interview with the author, please contact Cat Fitzpatrick at [cat@topsidepress.com](mailto:cat@topsidepress.com) or +1 201 282 0745.



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**TOPSIDE PRESS ANNOUNCES  
NEW BOOK OF POETRY BY KAY ULANDAY BARRETT**

NEW YORK, NY (April 20<sup>th</sup> 2016) — Topside Press, the leading publisher of transgender writing, has today announced that it will be releasing a collection of poems by noted performance poet Kay Ulanday Barrett on September 6th.

Kay, a past finalist in the Gwendolyn Brooks Award, has been a major figure as both an artist and an activist in trans and Pilipinx-American communities for over a decade. His live shows are legendary around the world, but it has not always been easy for fans to get hold of the texts of his writing.

Now a substantial collection of his work will finally be available in print. Combining widely loved classics like “Homebois Don’t Write Enough” and “Rhythm Is A Dancer” with exciting new work, *When The Chant Comes: Poems 2003-2016* will be a major landmark in trans poetry, and an unavoidably important contribution to literary conversations around race and disability in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America.

“We are so thrilled to be publishing this collection by Kay Ulanday Barrett,” said Topside poetry editor Cat Fitzpatrick. “We always knew how brilliant his work was, and how important it had been to so many people in performance, but the revelation of *When The Chant Comes* is that he is also a truly outstanding page poet- lushly evocative, sharply moving and intensely pleasurable. I’m sure this book will not only delight everyone who already loves Kay, but also win him legions of new admirers.”

# # #

**Topside Press**, founded in 2011, is a small independent press focused on transgender writing. Based in New York City, books published by Topside Press include *The Collection: Short Fiction from the Transgender Vanguard* (ed. Tom Léger and Riley MacLeod), *Nevada* by Imogen Binnie, and many other titles.



# WHEN THE CHANT COMES

KAY ULANDAY BARRETT

NEW SEPTEMBER 2016



## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“When The Chant Comes is fire medicine for the Soul: it calls forth a re-calibration of these rageful times that we are living in. Get this book. Get your healing ya'll.”

- **Sharon Bridgforth**, *author of the bull-jean stories*

“When The Chant Comes, we arise, relieved that we aren't alone. When the chant comes, we join in full-throated. When The Chant Comes is pure, queer love that refuses to apologize.”

- **Vivek Shraya**, *author of She of the Mountains and God Loves Hair*

“These poems are embodied, thick and fluid. Read them with your body and spirit on notice.”

- **Alexis Pauline Gumbs**, *author of Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity*

“These poems are songs—aching, beautiful, necessary songs that transport and transform.”

- **Eli Clare**, *author of Exile and Pride*