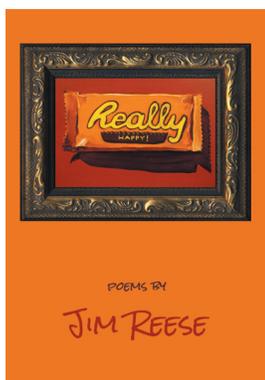


Press Release

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NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Really Happy* by Jim Reese



August 18, 2014 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Really Happy* by Jim Reese. Everything about *Really Happy*, Jim Reese's third full-length collection of poetry, is ordinary—focused on life all around us. But out of this ordinary the humanity of each of his characters comes to life, each craftily spun by Reese in perfect Midwestern tone and tenor, making these saints and sinners feel like family members. This familiarity, this elevation that Reese creates, making the ordinary extraordinary, will leave the reader feeling right at home, and *Really Happy*.

George Bilgere, author of *Imperial*

Though the settings of Jim Reese's poems—late night diners, bowling alleys, prisons—can be tough, unremitting, and bleak, he treats his subjects with a tender depth and humor that makes me want to be right there with him. In fact, so vividly drawn are these sharp-eyed portraits of life in the hardscrabble country of the Dakotas that I do feel like I'm with him. In *Really Happy*, Reese is an eloquent tour guide, a smart, soft-hearted, wise-cracking Virgil in a land of lonely miles and piercing beauty.

Kevin Clark, author of *Self-Portrait with Expletives*

No other poet I can think of captures the Anglo-American Midwest dialect like Jim Reese. The ambling, sometimes hesitant cadences, the clever self-deprecating sayings, the gentle inflections, the pitch-perfect, barely smiling comic take... His expression consistently surprises by virtue of its casual precision. While the poems rarely commit direct assertion, his language typically renders the region's signature temperament. Over and over in *Really Happy*, the speaker of these poems registers astonishment at the strangeness of this passing world, but immediately mutes that astonishment with a calm fatalism born of the challenging landscape. To enter this book is to be quietly swept into an existential imagination that's modest, wry, agrarian—and of our time.

Jim Daniels author of *Having a Little Talk with Capital P Poetry*

Jim Reese finds poetry everywhere—in emails; on bumper stickers; on skin; in bowling alleys and bars; in classrooms; in prisons; and in classrooms in prisons—and we're lucky that he's sharing it with us in this wry, compassionate collection. *Really Happy* is a really good book.

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, American Book Award winner

Jim Reese's book *Really Happy* is a master performance by a poet who blends equal parts of passion and humor in his work. He takes huge risks in his poems and appears unafraid to tell the truth about the place where he lives, the people he loves, his own failures, and the ironic moments he captures so exquisitely. He is the quintessential American poet, one to be admired and read again and again.

Jim Reese is an Associate Professor of English; Director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota; and Editor-in-Chief of *PADDLEFISH*. Reese's poetry and prose have been widely published, most recently in *New York Quarterly*, *Poetry East*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Louisiana Literature Review*, *Connecticut Review*, and elsewhere. His book *ghost on 3rd* was a Finalist for the 2010 Milt Kessler Poetry Award. Other recent awards include a 2012 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award and a 2012 Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of Reese's exemplary dedication and contributions to the Education Department at the Yankton Federal Prison Camp. Since 2008, Reese has been one of six artists-in-residence throughout the country who are part of the National Endowment for the Art's interagency initiative with the Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Prisons. Reese and his family live in southern South Dakota, near John Wesley Powell's one hundredth meridian—better than most determinants for where the American West begins.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



photo by Jamie Ridgway