

# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ Announces the Publication of *Thus Spake Gigolo* by Scott Bailey



September 25, 2014 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Thus Spake Gigolo* by Scott Bailey. This collection of poems charts the course of a speaker coming-of-age in rural South Mississippi, a world that is sublime and terrifying, but these poems are not limited to one landscape, region or approach. If this collection has a hero, it is Gigolo who confesses his hand-bitten tale of survival, navigating the difficulties of his inevitable frail natures, holding his fist up to what he dreams and lives for. He speaks of the wounds that must be spoken of. He speaks of the correspondence of nature, the marvels of nature. He perseveres adversity, he celebrates adversity, he portrays a speaker's evolution—whole yet broken, dying yet loving—alive at its end.

"The penniless spawn of hell-fire spewing evangelicals, Gigolo hotfoots it to the one city where a young man can get paid as long as he's willing to do anything: New Orleans. A Dante in hot pants and platform heels, Gigolo is at his most moving when he describes the world he came from, one of farm life, jail time, and church, church, church, all in the company of characters so odd that Flannery O'Connor would have shaken her head and said, 'They're too weird for me.' Like cherry bombs, these poems startle, illuminate, and make you cackle with delight as you say, 'Awright! Fire up another!'" —David Kirby

"Few poets have signaled, from the inside of their debasement, the commerce of the body for sale, leaving out nothing, not even the luciferic joy at the bottom of the well. The chains of Scott Bailey's *Gigolo* have dragged themselves over the ruined landscape of the city, leaving in their wake the words in this book." —Andrei Codrescu

"Scott Bailey has a distinctive voice. He is Southern, religious, and a homo speaking about poverty, hard-ons and damnation. His persona Gigolo blew me on every poem. His mouth, I mean, his flexible voice is worthy of your attention." —Edmund White

Scott Bailey grew up in Raleigh, Mississippi, the former home of the National Tobacco Spitting Contest. He comes from a family of preachers and carpenters. Although he spoke in tongues, on the women's side of the altar, at Crossroads Holiness Church, he never learned how to pound a nail. His degrees include a B.A. in English, Summa Cum Laude, an M.A. in Creative Writing from the College of Arts & Letters, The University of Southern Mississippi, an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from New York University, and a Ph.D. in English from Florida State University. He has received fellowships from Florida State University, The Mississippi Arts Commission, New York University, and The Valparaiso Foundation in Spain.



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.