

## All-American Poem (APR Honickman 1st Book Prize)

By Matthew Dickman



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Winner of the *American Poetry Review*/Honickman First Book Award.

“Matthew Dickman’s all-American poems are the epitome of the pleasure principle; as clever as they are, they refuse to have ulterior intellectual pretensions; really, I think, they are spiritual in character—free and easy and unself-conscious, lusty, full of sensuous aspiration. . . . We turn loose such poets into our culture so that they can provoke the rest of us into saying everything on our minds.”—Tony Hoagland, APR/Honickman First Book Prize judge

"Dickman crystallizes and celebrates human contact, reminding us...that our best memories, those most worth holding on to, those that might save us, will be memories of love....The background, then, is a downbeat America resolutely of the moment; the style, though, looks back to the singing free verse of Walt Whitman and Frank O'Hara....(Dickman's) work sings with all the crazy verve of the West." —*Los Angeles Times*

"Toughness with a smile....(Dickman) breathes the air of Whitman, Kerouac, O'Hara, and Koch, each of whom pushed against the grain of what poetry and writing was supposed to be in their times." —*New Haven Review*


*All American Poem* plumbs the ecstatic nature of our daily lives. In these unhermetic poems, pop culture and the sacred go hand in hand. As Matthew Dickman said in an interview, he wants the “people from the community that I come from”—a blue-collar neighborhood in Portland, Oregon—to get his poems. “Also, I decided to include anything I wanted in my poems. . . . Pepsi, McDonald’s, the word ‘ass.’”

*There is no one to save us  
because there is no need to be saved.  
I've hurt you. I've loved you. I've mowed  
the front yard. When the stranger wearing a sheer white dress  
covered in a million beads  
slinks toward me like an over-sexed chandelier suddenly come to life,  
I take her hand in mine. I spin her out  
and bring her in. This is the almond grove  
in the dark slow dance.*

*It is what we should be doing right now. Scraping  
for joy . . .*

**Matthew Dickman** is the winner of the May Sarton Award from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a poetry editor of *Tin House*, and the coauthor, with brother Michael Dickman, of *50 American Plays*. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

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## All-American Poem (APR Honickman 1st Book Prize) By Matthew Dickman Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Matthew Dickman won the APR/Honnickman First Book Prize for his book All American Poem. His poems have appeared in a wide range of publications, including The New Yorker, Tin House, and Lyric. When not attending a writer's residency, he works in a bakery, where he can "shape five baguettes in under three minutes."

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Lori Roth:

Book will be written, printed, or descriptive for everything. You can learn everything you want by a book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Close to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A book All-American Poem (APR Honickman 1st Book Prize) will make you to become smarter. You can feel considerably more confidence if you can know about almost everything. But some of you think which open or reading a new book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they can be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suitable book with you?

##### Willie Dreher:

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##### Milan Allen:

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**Michael Velez:**

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