

T. J. ANDERSON, III



Cairo Workbook

T.J. Anderson, III
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Praise for *Cairo Workbook*:

"In T.J. Anderson's *Cairo Workbook*, the poems render the city of Cairo in the way an astute filmmaker might focus their lens on the nuances of light. In the poems gathered here the reader is exposed to a complex articulation of the intersectionality of Africa and African America, a subject rarely approached in poetry. We hear the cadences of jazz colliding with the car horns and street calls of Cairo, the daily exchange of black and brown. The details and corners are what matter here. Characters illuminating the heart of the city as one might find in the burgeoning alleys of a Cairo neighborhood, or perhaps in the detailed streets of their own imagination."

~Matthew Shenoda, author of *Tahrir Suite*

dream/net

Sleep's syrup shapes the eye film
poised to swim
in foam's beard
a rotted carp bone ferris wheel
carpets surface scum

I'm stiffened by muscle wave
Cairo city bloom
an expanse/expense of view
Cairo Tower neon Sheraton
perhaps the purring aircraft
overhead staking its place
in the darkening stratus

To extend my claws
as gulls do?
Ride the razor current of a coroner's nod?

The ancient Nile is an anaconda writhing
A fisherman tosses a net from the banks
a momentary shine of a twisted braid
or the underbelly of mud-fed current

which needle points home

I'm in deranged directionless spin
slip shod sea snare shanty
a stitch in time snagged
not saved like a gris-gris deposited
in the beak of a tortoise upturned
a necklace, a noose
jagged and golden



CAIRO WORKBOOK

poems

T.J. Anderson

Established Author Series
Willow Books

T.J. Anderson, III has an MFA from the University of Michigan and a Ph.D. from Binghamton University. A former Fulbright Scholar at Cairo University, he is the author of *Notes to Make the Sound Come Right: Four Innovators of Jazz Poetry* (University of Arkansas Press), *River to Cross* (Backwaters Press), the Spoken-Word CD *Blood Octave* (Flat Five Recordings), and the chapbook *At Last Round Up* (lift books). He teaches courses in jazz literature, poetry and performance, and creative writing at Hollins University. Anderson is also the co-founder of the improvisational music duo Trancepoetica.

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