



## Black Metamorphoses by Shanta Lee Gander

*Black Metamorphoses* pierces a 2,000+ year-old veil inspired by a range of Ovidian myths while resisting a direct conversion of the work. This collection explores the Black psyche, body, soul, through inversion and brazen confrontation of work that has shaped Western civilization. In a poetic range of forms, voices, and rhythms, the reader is bathed in ancestral memory, myth, and sense of the timeless of the shapeshifting, resilient Black body.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Shanta Lee Gander is the author of *Ghettoclaustrophobia: Dreamin of Mama While Trying to Speak Woman in Woke Tongues*, the winner of the 2020 Diode Press full-length book prize with an honorable mention from the Sheila Margaret Motton prize, and reviews featured in the Poetry Foundation's *Harriet Books*, *Seven Days*, and the *Kenyon Review*. *Black Metamorphoses* is Gander's second full length poetry collection inspired by her lifelong love of mythology, has been longlisted for the 2021 Idaho poetry prize, shortlisted for the 2021 Cowles Poetry Book Prize, and named a finalist in the 2021 Hudson prize. When Gander is not writing poetry, she is working on her memoir project, is producing and reporting her series, "Seeing..." for Vermont Public Radio, and tending to her photography projects. She has an undergraduate degree in Women, Gender, and Sexuality from Trinity College, an M.B.A. from the University of Hartford, and her M.F.A. in Creative Non-Fiction and Poetry from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She teaches Media Studies at The Putney School and enjoys anything that allows her to explore beneath the surface (especially breaking into abandoned places). To see her visual art or read more of her work, visit: [Shantaleegander.com](http://Shantaleegander.com).

### ADVANCE PRAISE

*Black Metamorphoses* fuses new poetry with old forms to make things right through needful change. The travesty of slavery and the discovery of hope "bring us nectar that bathes wounds." Read this book and be dazzled into a new way of seeing.

—Pablo Medina, *Foreigner's Song: New and Selected Poems*

Gander sees gods reincarnate everywhere and paints them anew, haints in the garden, in the copper, in a leather purse, even "These fingernails filled with Black body" are illumined herein. *Black Metamorphoses* posits that Black folks are nearly invincible, eternal. Despite what we carry and how far, we'll keep on living.

—Remica Bingham-Risher, *Soul Culture: Black Poets, Books, and Questions that Grew Me Up*

Gander is an audacious mythmaker, inspired by Ovid but also keen to debunk the Eurocentric patriarchy that he represents. In a series of wildly ambitious and formally inventive monologues and character studies, Gander offers a searing threnody for the victims of slavery and the African Diaspora. Yet the book is also a moving and hard-won celebration of the black body: the rituals of mourning give way to empowerment.... *Black Metamorphoses* is a stunning accomplishment.

—David Wojahn, *From the Valley of Making: Essays on the Craft of Poetry (Poets On Poetry)*

### SAMPLE FROM THE BOOK

#### Tituba's Last Words

Stolen body?  
Stolen land?  
Of course I did it  
What did you think was going to happen?

#### How to Reverse a Conjure for Remus

Owl's blood?  
Too easy  
Easy like the way  
you appeared  
and disappeared life  
That kinda power always  
has balance

When you and yours  
want to be Gods,  
know that even Gods must  
observe the rules:  
No buried jars facing East  
under no flowering tree  
No owls killed by human hands

This kind of undoing requires...

### BOOK INFORMATION

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