



## **Blinking with Fists: Poems**

*Billy Corgan*

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# Blinking with Fists: Poems

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**Blinking with Fists: Poems** Billy Corgan

**The hit poetry collection from the creative force behind The Smashing Pumpkins**

Having risen to fame during the grunge era in the early nineties, Billy Corgan is among the most respected figures of the alternative rock world—a visionary artist who, more than a decade later, still commands a devoted following. Long admired for his evocative songwriting, Corgan embarks on a deeper exploration of literary terrain as a poet. Full of "the regretful melancholy of his music [and] the rhythmic, angular wordplay of his best Pumpkins lyrics" (Jeff Vrabel, Chicago Sun-Times), the poems in this collection form an imagistic journey through the intensely personal as Corgan throws into sharp relief issues of love, loss, identity, and loyalty. Crafted with a thoughtful and cadenced approach that shares the same allegiance to thunder and quiet found in his music, these writings further solidify Corgan's place as the voice of a generation.

## Blinking with Fists: Poems Details

Date : Published March 21st 2006 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux (first published 2004)

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Author : Billy Corgan

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# **From Reader Review Blinking with Fists: Poems for online ebook**

## **Hanaa says**

Let me just say, as many people have, that I am a huge Pumpkin's fan. Corgan is truly a great songwriter when he is in love or in pain. But what the hell was up with this book? 'Blinking with fists' ? Really? What does that mean?

Those were the exact questions I asked myself while I read this book. Expecting to be impressed and head-over-heels in love with this book, I have to say it fell short and it didn't give me the goosebumps I thought it would. I must say, he is an above and beyond talented person with an amazing force to pull you in with his songs, but this book didn't do it and I can't get over how disappointed I am.

Better luck next time, bud.

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## **Cfsingers says**

I have always had a hard time pinning a number or opinion to a poem by someone I don't know personally. Mr. Corgan is an amazing lyricist which is why I bought this book through the mail the instant it was available (and had a friend get it signed by Mr. Corgan himself). It is his amazing powers of speech that beckoned me to tear through the book three times end after end look for a whisper of that same voice in the words printed before me. I was disappointed to find myself so disappointed. I was disgusted to find myself so bored. After a short time I read through his online journaling and recognized that same undeveloped voice I had rummaged through in his book.

I am still a huge fan of the man and his music. I would suggest that anyone who likes him read his poetry because there is definitely a piece of him in there...it's just not as honed or practiced as I had originally been looking for. I mostly blame myself for setting expectations before reading the book.

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## **sisterimapoet says**

I've never classed myself as a huge fan of the Smashing Pumpkins, but what does appeal to me most on the albums I own is their lyrics and sense of storytelling within the songs.

As such I was interested to see how Billy Corgan comes across on paper. And generally I think the answer is quite well.

There were times when he seemed a bit overblown, and a spirituality is evident throughout which didn't appeal to me that much.

But there are moments of striking skill with words and stunning and original images peppered throughout.

I'm left wondering what he could do with the prose form...

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## **Lauren says**

Didn't like it is probably the understatement of the decade. How about the fact that I could've burned it until I remembered that I could take it back to the bookstore and get a better book instead? Yes. Yes.

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## **Mike says**

I didn't expect this to be good, but holy jemoses is it bad. On the back cover the blurb says that these poems "further solidify Corgan's place as the voice of a generation." I'm not sure anything sadder has ever been written—sad that someone would be dumb enough to make the claim, sadder still if it's true. You could walk into a local junior high, steal a 7th grade girl's notebook, and find better poetry under her little heart-dotted i's.

A taste:

The indecision speaks volumes for all to hear  
I clear all paths before me  
Thinking in time, without a worrying mind  
That I will come to a place of rest  
A last caress, perhaps of chance  
My hand on your belly, I softly begin to sing  
Li-lo, li-lo, li-lo  
Pulling from you what little I need  
Freeze the moment, make it last  
What you have can never rush past

For fuck's sake.

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## **Danine says**

What I dislike more than seascapes is lame poetry about seascapes and there are several references to seascapes and the sky and it kinda made me want to throw up a little. Corgan can do much better than this. He's a complete ass but the boy can write. Unfortunately, I didn't find that genius in this book.

The date of this book is 2004. I felt this was earlier for some reason. There are a few poems that were great but nothing that really blew my mind like some of his lyrics have done.

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## **Kim says**

Not even the 10+ years I spent adoring Billy Corgan could save me from having a poor opinion of this book.

It mostly reads like bad high school poetry that he wrote with a thesaurus next to his desk.

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### **Ed Petersen says**

I had relatively high hopes for this collection. After all, I enjoy most of Corgan's music under the Smashing Pumpkins umbrella. However, reading this collection turned out to be a disappointing experience.

I never paid too much attention to Corgan's lyrics, mainly because his thin, whiny voice is difficult to comprehend, but also because the overall \*sound\* of the song is often more important than what he's actually trying to say. Take "Siva" or "I Am One" for instance--they sound phenomenal but don't say a whole lot. "1979" is one of the few Pumpkins songs with the triumvirate of good plot, audible lyrics, and excellent hook.

My warning flag should have been the publishing date: 2004, right after his "happy music" efforts with Zwan. That album was an enjoyable but odd departure from the normally appealingly bleak Pumpkins fare. It turns out that this shiny side of Corgan wormed its way into his non-music poetry too. You get titles like "The Poetry of My Heart", "The Sun of Flowers", and "A Twixt the Twine". Their content is just as irritatingly generic and abstract as their titles.

Not all is lost. The "title" poem is darn good, and "See Saw Swam" is an intriguing exercise in language. "A Wax Seal" also strikes a chord, especially appealing in the lines "Apologies if I tripped that wire / The one attached to desire." But too often efforts like "Chiaroscuro" sound like lyrics to a never-released Pumpkins song and fall utterly flat on the page without Corgan's shimmering music to prop it up.

I've written abstract poetry myself, so I know what it's like to try to convey some of these ideas successfully while still trying to be unique. But there just isn't enough here to merit serious reading.

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### **sami al-khalili says**

Bill Corgan, a critically acclaimed singer-songwriter, musician and more of the Smashing Pumpkins left me drier than a homeless man's yearning of a martini. This book was, within my estimations, the most terrible read of this year so far. I found one poem to nibble on; I found the rest to be comparable to the writing of high-school students, sophomoric, shallow, and weak. This isn't bad, it's just boring. The rhythm was good, the meter was alright, but a generational voice? Please. Give this book to a kid in school to show and illustrate what average, if average, this really is. Generational? Not to the slightest. Kids should be looking up to giants, not gnats. I know I sound snide, or pretentious but really, I'm looking forward to returning this back to the library. It simply is not good and I'm surprised it was published.

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### **Taylor says**

Two stars is generous. I found this at Value Village and was unaware that Billy Corgan wrote poetry. And in a way, he doesn't... cuz this was pretty bad. It lacked a coherent theme, I struggled to figure out what any of the poems were actually about, and the majority read as a string of random words that lacked any kind of flow. I've literally seen predictive text iPhone writing that makes more sense. I read this collection without

looking at any reviews and once finished was unsurprised to see that most other readers were just as unimpressed. Too bad.

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### **Melanie says**

I love Billy's work, I really do, but the poems in this collection are so disappointing, especially because they could've been so much better. A lot of great ideas, a lot of great sounds, a lot of great images, but the poems really need a good edit to make them stronger. In a poem everything needs to be tight because of brevity, and the weak parts really drag down the rest of the poem, over and over again.

I went to the poetry reading in Chicago, and one of these poems had a very powerful image, a short two line segment, that was cut from the poem before publication. Sadly.

Billy's incredibly gifted, but without the music to back them up, the words in these poems more often than not don't manage to stand on their own. I'm not sure how much input Billy got from an editor or other poets before submitting these poems for publication, but they strike me as rather early drafts of what could've been great poems.

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### **Andrew says**

The poems collected here truly evoke images of the tortured artist. From myths to lost loves to American cities, the subjects flow as wide as thoughts in a brainstorming exercise. But each poem is meticulous in its words and each word creates a sense of wonder in the reader. Corgan is perhaps more known for his talents as singer and songwriter with the band, The Smashing Pumpkins, making the poems most similar to his lyrics rise to the top of the collection. Music seems to gush out of these glimpses of the band's famous song catalogue, full of familiarity and dissonance all at once. However, each poem is in its own sense lyrical and sweeping, so by the end, a journey of the mind has taken place.

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### **Gene Wagendorf III says**

So, let me start by saying that I am a huge Smashing Pumpkins nerd. I've spent countless dollars and hours on just about everything Billy Corgan, no matter how obscure (or stupid) the project. I think the man is brilliant as a lyricist. When I heard he was working on a book of poetry, sure, I had a stiffy. Then I read the book and my dick went more limp than the prose.

Seriously, all I have to say is that if I wrote those poems they'd never be published. Outside of about two pieces, Corgan seems totally out of his element. He stumbles awkwardly over language and either gets lost in his own rhythm or stuck in obscure and unsuccessful imagery.

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### **Jennifer Nedimyer says**

More widely known as the singer from The Smashing Pumpkins, Billy Corgan's *Blinking with Fists* proves that his talent is not restricted to performance in vocals. This collection of lyrical poetry deals with a wide range of issues, from love to hate and back again--plus, of course, a nature poem or two to emphasize the

healing power of the natural world. His carefully crafted insights into our world make him a must-read for aspiring poets or readers of poetry. It challenged me on my previous thoughts about the line distinguishing lyrics and poetry—apparently, they can be one in the same, for some artists!

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### **Lisa Ziccardi says**

I could not even finish this book because reading it made me cringe and want to go ' Oh Billy' out loud to my self in a sad voice. I am a fan of his music both old and new, he does have talent there. But I honestly think that if he WASN'T Billy Corgan NO publisher would touch this book or give it a second thought. The poems did not rhyme, and sounded sophomoric and that they were the poorly put together thoughts of a angst ridden girl whose parents did not understand how deep and complicated she is. I really do feel bad about saying this, but I am not going to flatter or sugar coat because he is Billy Corgan. If anything he deserves honesty, and honestly I think he should stick to music. Sorry Billy.

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