

NIGHTBOAT BOOKS

PRESS RELEASE

# NO DICTIONARY OF A LIVING TONGUE

DURIEL E. HARRIS

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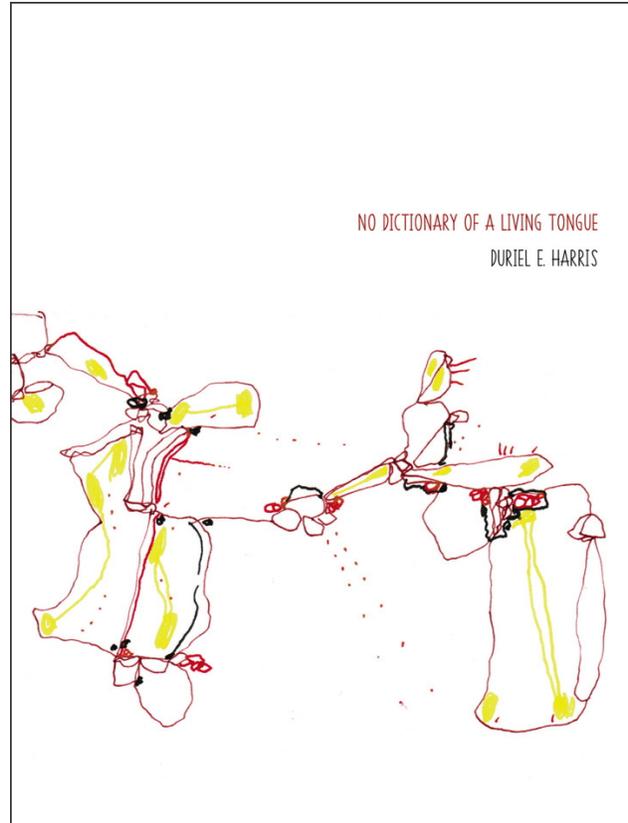
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In this necessary new collection, Duriel E. Harris has created a primer on citizenship. *No Dictionary of a Living Tongue* is a living archive, collecting the muscles, senses, and narratives of a life. This is a stunning achievement, at once proprioceptive, visceral, destabilizing, and visionary. — **Claudia Rankine**

Early on in her masterful, new book Duriel E. Harris tells us “speech inhabits a body.” Everywhere her poems relentlessly fuse and refuse the borders between language and the body. Everywhere forms, meditations, notations, dialogues, and definitions are transfigured by her intense, imaginative intelligence. *No Dictionary of a Living Tongue* is akin to a dictionary made of shadow and glimmer, fluid and flame. This is wondrous, incalculable work from one of contemporary poetry’s supreme alchemists. — **Terrance Hayes**

Duriel E. Harris’ *No Dictionary of a Living Tongue* is a muscular intellect mapping an open-chambered heart. These poems, and it feels too limiting to call what happens here poems, dizzy me with their vision, and indeed offer up a new way of seeing through their investigations into the core of something very human and very very black. Harris again proves that hers is a mind capable of breaking language down into its bare necessity, getting towards something both wild & rooted through these polyrhythmic, code-switching, swagger fat poems. You gotta check this out, fam. Here is black brilliance doing what it do, relying on nothing but itself to articulate its genius; here is the black experiment of Harris where the poet is the lab, the genius, the rat, the substance, and the boom filling the room at once. — **Danez Smith**

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Poet, performer, and sound artist, **DURIEL E. HARRIS** is author of *Drag* and *Amnesiac* and coauthor of the poetry video *Speleology*. Current undertakings include “Blood Labyrinth” and the solo performance project *Thingification*. Harris is an associate professor of English in the graduate creative writing program at Illinois State University and Editor of *Obsidian: Literature & Arts* in the African Diaspora.