

# WEEPING GANG BLISS VOID YAB-YUM

by devendra banhart

Featherproof is thrilled to announce *Weeping Gang Bliss Void Yab-Yum*, the first collection of poetry by musician Devendra Banhart, to be released on April 23, 2019.

This poetry collection is at turns surreal, pious, silly, and heartbreaking, but always true to its own logic, even as it creates and expands that logic as it goes. It's the most personal work Devendra Banhart has ever created.

It weaves together awed autobiographical sketches so that a distinct sensibility and experience emerge, while simultaneously setting the reader free to traverse an imaginative wilderness. The poems each stand on their own as distinct and bizarre singular shards, while also accruing resonance.

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be Devendra? Have you ever wondered what it's like to be yourself? This book.



## **Weeping Gang Bliss Void Yab-Yum**

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**by:** Devendra Banhart

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“

The lizard mafia protects him. Garudas taught him music. Fallen angels bring flowers made of wheels within wheels — where, he asks us, have you put the laundry detergent? All the rides in this county fair are plated with gold.

”

—Diane di Prima

### **about the poems**

Though a few poems date back to Devendra's time in San Francisco 20 years ago, this collection began in earnest in New York City, winter 2014, after a breakup with their fiancé, preparing to move back to California. While re-acclimating to California the next year, their biological father, Gary, and a close friend, Asa, both took their own lives.

Over the next years, the practice of writing each day took on deepening significance. Devendra went to India, visiting ashrams and temples and the ancient holy city Varanasi to deliver the ashes of both Gary and Asa to the Ganges. They visited Japan repeatedly, spending time in temples and small fishing villages, dropping into the big cities to play shows.

The writing continues through all of this and their return to California, thinking through the recording process of their eighth album, *Ape in Pink Marble*.

### **about devendra banhart**

Devendra Banhart is an artist and musician who was born on May 30, 1981 in Houston, Texas. They were raised in Caracas, Venezuela and studied poetry with Bill Berkson at the San Francisco Art Institute. They live alone in California, the recipient of many pumpkin soup recipes.

### **about featherproof**

Featherproof Books publishes strange and beautiful fiction and nonfiction and post-, trans-, and inter-genre tragicomedy. Alive since '05. [www.featherproof.com](http://www.featherproof.com)

