

The Karaoke Singer's Guide to Self-Defense

Tim Kinsella
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“For all this novel’s depth of story, and that story’s grip and wealthy undercurrents, Tim Kinsella’s rushing, trippily meticulous prose is so exciting to follow that the story seems as much the novel’s soundtrack and topography as it is the point. A thorough and wildly distinctive read.”

—Dennis Cooper, author of *Frisk* and *The Marbled Swarm*

Dear Tastemaker,

Tim Kinsella is a creative force. Starting in 1995 with his widely influential and short-lived band Cap’n Jazz, he forged the way for a whole new kind of post-punk, lighting the way for countless bands including many of his own: Joan of Arc, Owls, Make Believe and Friend/Enemy. Kinsella’s tireless creativity is poured into albums, soundtracks, films, and lyrics. His most recent record is the blistering *Life Like* (Polyvinyl), a stripped-down, road-tested album recorded by Steve Albini. Now he’s turned his hand and relentless energy to another creative endeavor: the novel.

Featherproof is excited to release *The Karaoke Singer’s Guide to Self-Defense* (On Sale Date: **October 11th, 2011, \$14.95, ISBN: 978-0-9831863-0-4, Distributed to the trade by Publishers Group West**). A dream-like collage, as intuitive and irreducible as it is formal, Tim Kinsella’s debut novel drifts from families to outcasts, all caught in rhythms of shock and ambivalence. Reunited for a funeral, a family finds dissonance in the fragments of their shared memories: a thoughtful dancer back at her bar, a bitter father working in a toothpaste factory, and a fist-fight addict struggling to keep his nose clean. Across town, a boy is locked up in a delusional man’s home. Meanwhile, a teenage runaway looks for a new life in The Legendary Shhh..., a strip club recently passed down to an unprepared heir. The citizens of Stone Claw Grove cope with an optionless everyday, each struggling to recognize some note of desire in the overwhelming static of cliché. Cruelty is a given. Karaoke is every Thursday.

Kinsella’s lyrics are abstract, sardonic, wise and twisted. Here his sensibility explodes in a 376-page cliché-obliterating wall of sound. Reverberating syntax builds into a gripping plot, pulling the reader forward even as it drags its characters down. The book was written during a break in Kinsella’s tireless touring schedule while he attended the writing program at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago to hone his distinct prose style.

We're proud to announce that review copies are available to the press, and Kinsella is more than happy to talk about the book, his entry into the literary world, and the importance of music in his growth as a writer. Please do get in touch.

Thank you for your time,



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Tim Kinsella has fronted such bands as Cap'n Jazz, Owls, Friend/Enemy and Joan of Arc. He holds an MFA in writing from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His writing has appeared in *The Chicago Reader*, *Monsters and Dust*, and *Stop Smiling*. He lives in Chicago.

Full press kit, including author photos and book cover, can be found at featherproof.com. Just click on 'press' and scroll on down. Or email us at press@featherproof.com

