

NEW FROM SIBLING RIVALRY PRESS
a chapbook of poetry

DIY body

toni garcia-butler



Arkansas
Queer Poet
Series
#4

Author: Toni Garcia-Butler

Title: D I Y Body

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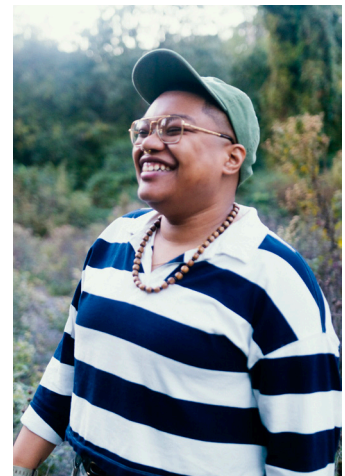
**2025 BEST POET OF ARKANSAS
- ARKANSAS TIMES**

SYNOPSIS

In **DIY BODY**, Toni Garcia-Butler crafts a vibrant, defiant exploration of identity, inheritance, and self-making at the intersections of Black, Filipino, southern, and Trans/queer experience. Through poems that move between memory, performance, and everyday ritual, Garcia-Butler builds a body not given, but claimed piece by piece, voice by voice. These poems are alive with sound and movement: karaoke bars become sites of transformation, kitchens hold the ghosts of lineage and love, and mosh pits offer fleeting freedom from misrecognition. This chapbook is a proclamation of naming, desire, family, and belonging, an insistence on the right to define the self beyond expectation or constraint.

BIOGRAPHY

TONI GARCIA-BUTLER (he/they) is a poet and community artist rooted in Little Rock, Arkansas. He believes artists are cultural historians and memory keepers. His writing and art center the lived experiences of his people: Black, Fil-am, southern, Trans/queer, and everyone existing within the margins. As a facilitator, Toni encourages folks to empower themselves through DIY publishing/zinemaking, personal narrative, and creative joy. Toni was named by the *Arkansas Times* as "Best Poet of Arkansas" in 2025.



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PRAISE FOR
DIYbody
toni garcia-butler

“*D I Y BODY IS NECESSARY* for southern US, multi-ethnic, Black, and Trans communities and laced with daring, vulnerability, and kinship. Garcia-Butler elaborates on growing Trans awareness and love as it rages and ruminates. He’s chock-full of spirit and observation. Come for the karaoke and stay for the poet who keeps your plate and your curiosity full.”

— **KAY ULANDAY BARRETT** —

— winner of The Cy Twombly Award for Poetry & author of *More Than Organs*, a Lambda Literary Finalist & Stonewall Honor Award Book

“*WHEN I FIRST* encountered Toni Garcia-Butler’s work, I recognized that feeling I’ve come to trust as a publisher. It’s the one that says: pay attention, something is happening here. Something electric. These poems carry that kind of energy. Garcia-Butler reminds us that identity is not something handed over cleanly. It is something we build, protect, and celebrate, often in the same breath. This book holds exactly what I hoped the Arkansas Queer Poet Series would become: a space for voices that are rooted, rising, and reshaping what it means to belong.”

— **BRYAN BORLAND** —

— series curator, founding publisher of Sibling Rivalry Press, and author of *Brotherful*, a finalist for the Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry, and *DIG*, a Lambda Literary Finalist



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SIBLING RIVALRY PRESS is proud to host the Arkansas Queer Poet Series, whose mission is to highlight and honor LGBTQ poets with a connection to our home state of Arkansas.

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