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# LISTEN, KID

## SELECTED & NEW POEMS 2010-2026

BRYAN BORLAND




Arkansas Queer Poet Series #5

*Listen, Kid: Selected & New Poems 2010-2026*
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**INCLUDES LAMBDA LITERARY FINALIST COLLECTION *DIG* & THOM GUNN AWARD FINALIST COLLECTION *BROTHERFUL***

## SYNOPSIS

*Listen, Kid* gathers sixteen years of Bryan Borland's poetry into one sweeping, intimate, and fiercely human collection. Moving across love, lust, faith, grief, queer boyhood, marriage, family lineage, and the ghosts that shape a life, these poems trace the evolution of a Southern gay poet who refuses to look away from the hard things and refuses to write without tenderness.

Borland's work spans the mythic and the personal: altar boys and childhood friendships, brothers living and lost, the ache of rural adolescence, the bright terror of first desire, the complexities of relationships, the politics of survival, and the long, startling work of growing into one's own body. Whether writing elegy or erotic memory, biblical remix or road-trip confession, he approaches every subject with clarity, vulnerability, humor, and reverence. This is a book about becoming again and again, and about the people, places, and loves that make survival not only possible but luminous. Borland writes to the younger self who doesn't yet know how the story will turn out, and to the reader who needs to hear it: you belong, you endure, you matter. *Listen, Kid* is a landmark collection from a poet and publisher whose work has shaped and sustained a generation of queer readers and writers.

Borland's Sibling Rivalry Press was the first press of any size to win Lambda Literary Awards in both Gay Poetry and in Lesbian Poetry. He was also the first to publish chapbooks by writers such as Ocean Vuong, whose love note to Sibling Rivalry Press opens this collection, and Kaveh Akbar. His work is deeply intertwined with Sibling Rivalry Press, and his publishing journey is frequently referenced within the poems of *Listen, Kid*.

KEYWORDS: Gay Poetry, Queer Poetry, Southern Poetry, Gay Literature, LGBTQ+ Voices, Spiritual Poetry, Sexual Orientation, Overcoming Shame, Gay Marriage, Relationships, Family, Lineage, Arkansas, Contemporary Poetry, Lambda Award Finalist, Thom Gunn Award Finalist

"Bryan Borland's poems are rendered with depth and sensitivity. Written with unflinching candor, his work invites us into a world where memory gives way to reverie, where personal history becomes myth, and where love and loss are never far apart. Borland weaves together family, friendship, and grief to create something both mythic and achingly real. His poems carry the social and political awareness, and the sharp-eyed critique of American life, that have long defined his voice. This is a beautiful collection—one that belongs in the hands of every poetry lover. But it reaches further: these poems have the power to move even those who don't typically read poetry. There is richness here for everyone."

## — PAUL ROMERO —

**— Longtime Curator of the Bryant Park Reading Room, New York City**



SIBLING RIVALRY PRESS

*DISTURB/ENRAPTURE*

**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.**

## BIOGRAPHY

**BRYAN BORLAND is the author of multiple books of poetry, including *Brotherful*, a finalist for the Publishing Triangle's Thom Gunn Award for Gay Poetry, and *DIG*, a Lambda Literary Award finalist in Gay Poetry and a Stonewall Honor Book as selected by the American Library Association. He is a Lambda Literary Foundation Lambda Fellow in Poetry, a Windgate Foundation Catalyze Fellow, and a winner of the Judith A. Markowitz Emerging Writer Award. He is the founding editor of *Assaracus: A Journal of Gay and Queer Poetry*, which, in its first year was named "Best New Magazine" by *Library Journal*. He was also the inaugural "Best Poet of Arkansas" as named by the *Arkansas Times*. His work bridges poetry and publishing, driven by a belief in visibility, lineage, and the radical power of art.**

**Borland is the founder of Sibling Rivalry Press, one of the most influential independent publishers of queer poetry in the world. Through SRP, he has amplified the voices of hundreds of LGBTQ+ writers and helped redefine the contemporary queer canon, which, in turn, helped redefine the contemporary canon of poetry as a whole.**

**Born and raised in Arkansas, Borland writes from a place where Southern lyricism meets queer witness, his poems often blurring confession and ritual. His work has appeared in journals and anthologies across the U.S. and abroad, and he has read in spaces ranging from libraries and festivals to churches and classrooms.**

**He lives in Arkansas with his husband, writer and editor Seth Pennington, continuing to map the geographies of loss, sex, survival, love, and spirit that defines his body of work.**