

NEITHER WIT NOR GOLD

AMMIEL ALCALAY

Poetry | \$14 (\$12 direct from UDP)

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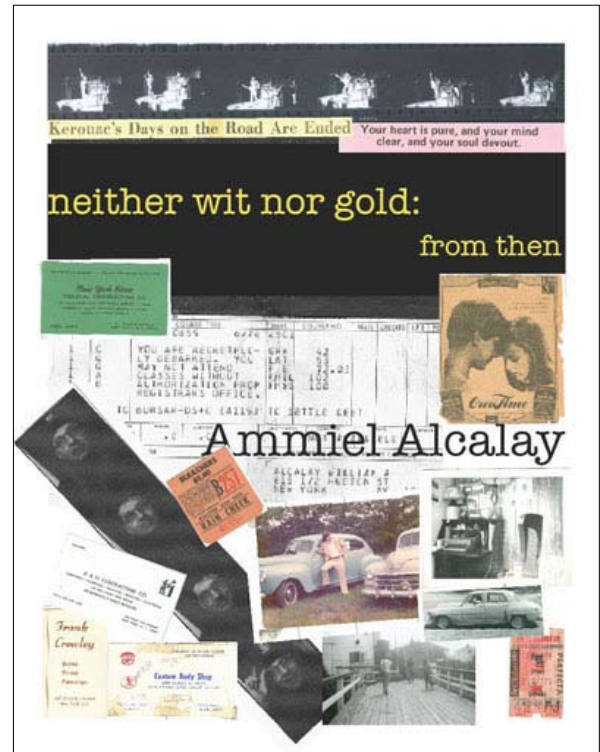
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While putting together a manuscript of work written between 1975-1990, Alcalay became dissatisfied with the notion of a “selected poems.” As a response, he began to comb through photographs, correspondence, memorabilia, journal entries, and newspaper clippings from the era, and incorporated them into his book; the result is a personal investigation into the relationships of context to text, memory to nostalgia, and present attention to the multiple traces of the past.



In this third collection of poems by Laura Solomon, the Hermit embodies the complicated search for simplicity and shared solitude both at home and abroad. These poems explore the struggle to articulate a precision in language, people, places, and emotions by placing the poet at the heart of a monomyth. This is a gut-wrenching collection that meditates on truth, the unconscious, and the sacrifices of love.



AMMIEL ALCALAY grew up in Boston and, as a child, spent time in Gloucester where family friends included Charles Olson and Vincent Ferrini. As a teenager, through the Grolier and Temple Bar Bookshops in Cambridge, he befriended many poets, including John Wieners. Poet, translator, critic, scholar and activist, he teaches at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. His books include *Scrapmetal* (2006); *From the Warring Factions* (2002), a book length poem dedicated to the Bosnian town of Srebrenica; *Memories of Our Future: Selected Essays* (1999); *After Jews and Arabs* (1993), and *the Cairo Notebooks* (1993). His translations include *Sarajevo Blues* (1998) and *Nine Alexandrias* (2003) by the Bosnian poet Semezdin Mehmedinovic, *Keys to the Garden* (1996), and a co-translation (with Oz Shelach), of *Outcast* by Shimon Ballas (2007). A new book of essays, *A Little History*, is due out in 2011. *Islanders*, a novel, came out in 2010. Along with Anne Waldman and others, he was one of the initiators of the Poetry Is News Coalition, and organized, with Mike Kelleher and Fred Dewey, the OlsonNow project. Most recently, through the PhD Program in English and the Center for the Humanities at the CUNY Graduate Center, he initiated Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative, a series of student and guest edited archival texts emerging from the New American Poetry.

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