

Ammiel Alcalay

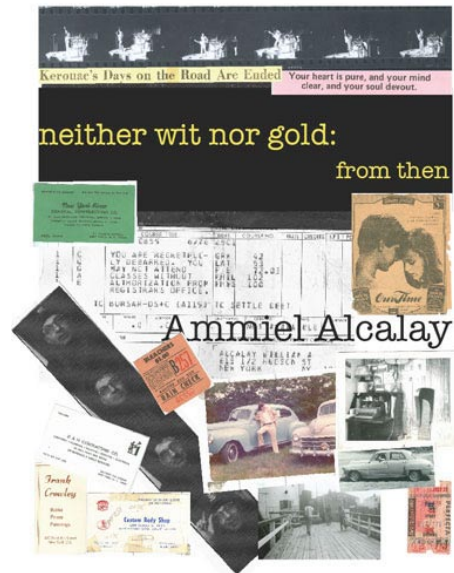
neither wit nor gold

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHOR

"Ammiel Alcalay is that rare thing—a gifted prose writer and poet, an accomplished intellectual and a true, as well as inventive, comparatist." — EDWARD SAID

ABOUT THE BOOK

While putting together a manuscript of work written between 1975 and 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.



Poetry | \$14

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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