

Ben Fama

AQUARIUS RISING

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PRAISE FOR AQUARIUS RISING

"how much do you rely on planets? Ben Fama poses this question in his astounding astrological sequence of poems, *Aquarius Rising*. He doesn't depend on planets: he sees signs in all that's around him—sky, sea, sequins. A poetic horoscopist, he knows that there is nothing more difficult or fun than attempting to make sense of the present. For Fama, the present presages another present, and then another; and he reads it with wit and wonderment and wily smarts. I take his words to heart. Fama is the future."

—DEREK MCCORMACK, author of *The Haunted Hillbilly*

"If you love someone you might want to call her and leave Ben Fama's poems as messages on her voicemail. The messages would be informative and casual and glowing. They would be a big deal—a glamorous shrug from the heart!"

—HEATHER CHRISTLE

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben Fama is the author of the chapbook *Sun Come* and co-author of the chapbook *GIRL BOY GIRL BOY* (Correspondences, 2010). He works as an editor for Akashic Books. He is the founder of the Brooklyn-based Supermachine Reading Series and poetry journal. His work has appeared in *GlitterPony*, *Pank!* and *No, Dear Magazine*, among others.

ABOUT UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE

Ugly Duckling Presse is a nonprofit art and publishing collective producing small to mid-size editions of new poetry, translations, lost works and artist books. For more about UDP, visit www.uglyducklingpresse.org.

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From *Aquarius Rising*:

Joe Brainard's 21st Tan

Opened like the funnies
a picture stuffed
into another picture's frame
the sky becomes gray
no candles lit
this reality will not suffice
if it isn't cosmic it isn't anything
it's raining and I'm going out
maybe Joe Brainard will show up
maybe a diamond will fall
all the things he talked about
still make the poem a surprise
I once asked to marry the moon
believe a mind could
take hold of the sea
Katie died surfing
I too know the sorrow of wanting love
refuse to tame my vulgar emotions
and I'd like to go home
the long way if I remember