

## Footnotes in the Order of Disappearance

**Fady Joudah**

Milkweed Editions (Mar 13, 2018)

Softcover \$16.00 (88pp)

978-1-57131-501-4

A Houston poet's tool box doesn't normally include fluency in Arabic and an internal medicine practice—indeed, Dr. Joudah's scholastic accomplishments and life experience raise our expectations. And, in turn, we find his work on the page to be intensely observant, thoughtful, skilled, and outright enjoyable. In 2007, he won the Yale Series of Younger Poets competition, and later received the Griffin Poetry Prize and a Guggenheim Fellowship. This is his fourth published collection.

### AN ALGEBRA COME HOME

Morning slept well. The fruit vendor—an immigrant in a Paris street market whose name I can access but don't recall—sliced a peach and called out to passersby, city dwellers, tourists to try this heart of his, not too sour, not too sweet, ripe, ready, his bare hands looked as dry as can be expected, the pocket knife blade clean as well. Many refused. A few reached out and let his quartered peach fall unto their fingertips furred like flowers. They ate his offering then walked off with or without shaking their heads. No thank you or Yes but No. You waited as you chewed then picked four fruits, one for each chamber. He said "Gorgeous, you're the one who's mended my heart."

MATT SUTHERLAND (March/April 2018)

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