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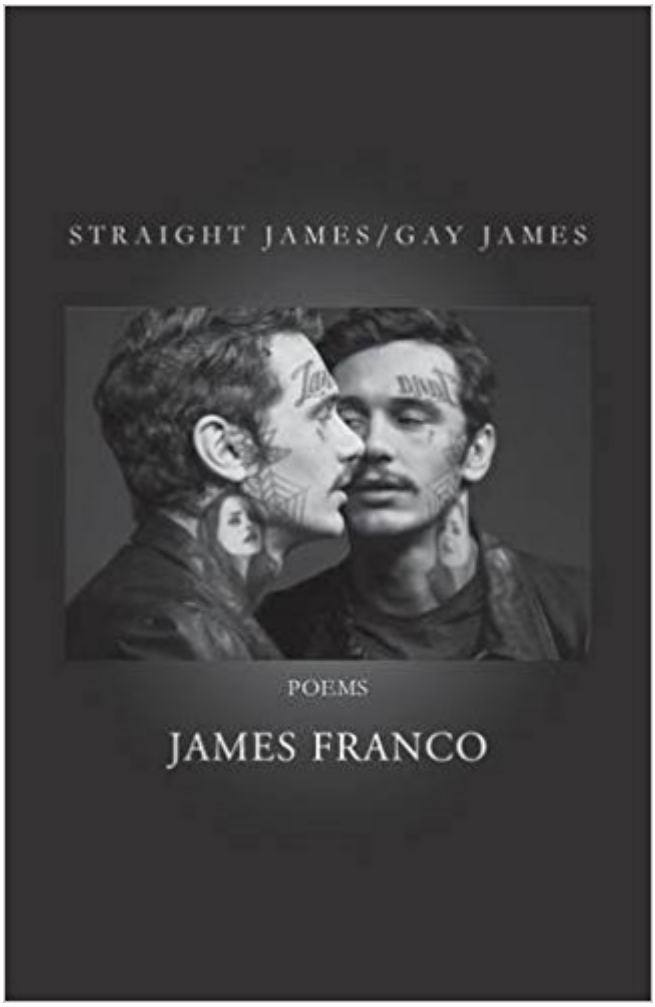
Straight James / Gay James



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Synopsis

Straight James / Gay James, actor James Franco’s new chapbook of poems, explores the facets of his public and private personas. Straight James / Gay James is a poetic bildungsroman--raw, candid, and uninhibited. James Franco writes about life as an actor, sexuality, questions of identity, gender, family, Gucci, Lana Del Rey, James Dean, and Hollywood. His poetic style varies from the imagistic to the prosaic. The chapbook also contains an interview of "Gay James" conducted by "Straight James." Yes, Straight James asks the question: Let’s get substantial: are you gay or what?

Book Information

Paperback: 60 pages

Publisher: Hansen Publishing Group (January 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1601822626

ISBN-13: 978-1601822628

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.1 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (39 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

If you are familiar with and fascinated by James Franco-- artist and persona-- I think you’ll love this book. Expect the unexpected. This chapbook gives a unique and eye-opening look into Franco’s mind. What’s Real or Fake? That is the question he asks, and quite possibly answers here.At 60 pages, it’s a short read, in the end this collection makes complete sense as a serious work. Pieces of a puzzle and contradicting glimpses of Franco the chameleon who refuses to be pigeonholedby description. There is brilliance here.One of the reasons I’m a big fan of his, is because of his work that fights stereotyping and expectations. He is a true artist, well educated, fighter for freedom-- an original.I received an ARC from the publisher through NetGalley.

I wasn’t sure at first, not being familiar with Franco’s poetry style but then it became clearer. I could see him wanting to paint or act the words he was writing. Granted, there is vanity in his writing but he actually alludes to it. I found it to be real and raw but at the same time, still leaving you with

questions about him, which is what he wants. I was wanting to read more but the book ended. As a poet myself, I found his style unique and inspiring. Straight James/Gay James was a bit much, but revealing nonetheless. Much of him leaks out no matter how hard he is trying to conceal his private self.

I cannot praise this book enough. I was already a fan of James Franco as a brilliant actor and director but now I know what a stunning wordsmith he also is.The poems, essays, articles within these pages are raw, deep, inimitable. They'll cut through your soul without asking for permission and after that you will still thank them for it. James Franco's writing touched me with the same fury and force as some renowned late poets did. I won't name names to avoid comparisons because Franco's work is original and unique enough not to need that.I'll just say that reading this book was a terrific experience. One that I will certainly repeat over and over through the years. James Franco is now among my favorite authors too.I can't thank NetGalley and the publisher enough for the opportunity of reading an ARC of this work in exchange of my honest review.

Sometimes when I read poems I find it difficult to feel the flow and to see the picture. Not with these poems. While reading this I could see everything; as if I am him while I'm reading him.I still don't know whether James is gay or straight, happy or sad, dating Lana or not, religious or not. Yet at the same time he was brutally honest in every word.A worthwhile read. Go for it.

If you're a fan of Franco's acting, and you don't read a lot of poetry but fancy yourself a "poet," you'll enjoy this.If you love literature and are swayed enough by the blurbs by Bidart, Shapiro, and Hoagland to give the book a chance despite its silly title, all I can say is, check it out from the library so you don't regret the purchase, and maybe invite your poetry friends over to chortle with you. The book is not without humor but unfortunately for the author, you'll be laughing at, not with him.Also, the poets who blurbed this book should be ashamed of themselves.

About James Franco, maybe this is the place to look. He's sure is into explaining. Anyway, I got a settlement from , so this was free. But I might have bought it anyway. Franco's unique, that's for sure.

There is a girlyes it's melight brownsmart and freeI bought this bookjust so I can sayI read the poemabout Lana Del ReyThank you.

I was so excited to get this book! I had heard that it was coming out and just couldn't wait to read! Well, sadly I was deeply disappointed. It didn't seem to be poetry as a bunch of random thoughts put together. It was hard to understand and even harder to read. I love poetry, I think that it is beautiful and full of wonder. This just left me scratching my head.

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