



They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full

Mark Bibbins

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full

Mark Bibbins

They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full Mark Bibbins Honored as a "Best Poetry Book of the Year" by *Publishers Weekly*

"The book's a little crazy, packed with air quotes and brackets, jokes and condemnations, forms that explode across the page. Crazy enough, it's also packed with truth."—NPR

"The voice of this third book from Bibbins is marked and numbed by the onslaught of American media and politics that saturate the Internet, television, radio, and smartphone: 'the way things are going, children/ will have to upgrade to more amusing.' Much like advertisements or news stories vying for viewer's attention, the book intentionally overwhelms, eschewing sections; the author instead differentiates the poems by repetition, creating a sort of echo chamber, similar to the way viral information cycles through social media platforms."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"[A] hilarious send-up of contemporary values and an alarm bell of sorts, directing attention to all that is so sinister in our civilization."—*American Poets*

"Whip-smart and wickedly funny, *They Don't Kill You* is Bibbins's most authoritative and self-possessed collection to date."—*Boston Review*

The poems in Mark Bibbins's breakthrough third book are formally innovative and socially alert. Roving across the weird human landscape of modern politics, media-exacerbated absurdity, and questionable social conventions, this collection counters dread with wit, chaos with clarity, and reminds us that suffering is "small//compared to what?"

Mark Bibbins teaches in the graduate writing programs at The New School and Columbia University, and edits the poetry section of *The Awl*. He lives in New York City.

They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full Details

Date : Published March 25th 2014 by Copper Canyon Press

ISBN : 9781556594588

Author : Mark Bibbins

Format : Paperback 105 pages

Genre : Poetry

 [Download They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, T ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full Mark Bibbins

From Reader Review They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full for online ebook

Debs says

While I struggled through some of the more abstract poems in the first half of this collection, I really enjoyed a number of them in the second half. The final poem made me laugh out loud a couple of times, which is rare for me and poetry.

Jsavett1 says

Bibbins's poetry is wild and smart and very funny. If you're a lover of clear narrative or lyric poetry, poems which tell of an encounter in a doctor's waiting room, or paint the image of a young woman gracefully pushing her wheelchair through a parking lot in the rain (see Ted Kooser), these poems are not for you. Bibbins lives on the edge of traditional intelligibility. His poems are the children of Strand and Bly, Simic and Young: surreal, intuitive, inventive, and sometimes frustrating. Many times, the reader is supposed to be frustrated. Many times, Bibbins's goal is to literally CREATE frustration amuck as much as mirror it. As the note on the back of the book points out, "these poems counter dread with wit, chaos with clarity (and sometimes more chaos)."

So why four stars instead of five? This was a really good book. Many of these poems are great. They won lots of awards and acclaim. But ultimately, for me these poems live too much on their own surface to LOVE. They are incredibly self-aware, they drip with irony; Bibbins is in NO danger of being called sentimental. But I believe one can develop a poetics too far in the other direction--these poems feel like they were composed by a hyper-kinetic and acute brain unattached to a living, breathing body. It's how I tend to feel sometimes when I read David Foster Wallace's fiction (not his essays notably). So I didn't come away from any of these poems saying "whoa...what an eye he has" or "my goodness, that was beautiful." One finishes a Bibbins poem with a smirk in appreciation of his cleverness and intelligence, and because of what isn't written as much as what is. And that smirk is both a good and bad thing.

Oh yeah. I LOVE the title.

Jenny (Reading Envy) says

I loved this book of poetry, which had been recommended several places. Some of them are bizarre, some are hilarious, and my poor husband had to hear several of them read aloud because I couldn't just keep them to myself.

Bibbins writes with poetic commentary on the present day - terrorism, politics, fundamentalism, friendship, community.

My absolutely favorite poems in this volume are a set, "Pat Robertson Transubstantiation Engine No. 1-6." Luckily they can all be read online at The Literary Review. If you are a super fan of The 700 Club, clicking on that link will just make you mad. If you need a laugh about fundamentalism, highly recommended. It is very sacrilegious in the very best way. Phrases like "syphilitic oatmeal snowman," "O heavenly flogger," "the

sweet cauliflower of Falwell," and so on.

Other favorites:

-Unity, Utility, Ubiquity

"if you're going to carry your gorgeous head around in a sack...."

-Factory

"That we were broken

That we lingered near a broken factory

That we had broken"

-Junior National Treasure Cemetery

"in case you are promiscuous / or merely forgetful

I've carved your name on half the trees

of this burnt forest / to help you find home"

-Our Fairy Decorator

"See how I settle for less.

James says

This book is really inventive, and yet down to earth. Mark Bibbins knows how to turn a phrase--and the twists and turns of the imagination make reading this volume pleasurable. Containing a couple of informal "series," including one in which the poem rather than the poet takes over meaning, and another archly funny sequence in the voice of televangelist Pat Robertson, THEY DON'T KILL YOU processes through the "stuff" of contemporary life while asking eternal questions. The final poem uses the "nontroversy" of Joaquin Phoenix being interviewed by Letterman as a metaphysical meditation on the operation of culture, how it distracts us from real inequities and injustice. A sly, sophisticated voice pervades this collection--able to make us laugh without taking pratfalls, able to dazzle us without phony pyrotechnics.

Lauren says

Worth the read, with interesting language, images, and things to say. I was expecting something slightly more iconoclastic and violent, but wasn't disappointed with what I found. Possibly one of the more interesting titles for any book ever written.

Joe says

Probably more of a 3 and 1/2 by my estimation but it seemed kinder to round up.

Zoe says

This book of poems made me make noises out loud. Seriously, one of the most lush, gorgeous, and gut-punching collections of words I've read in a long while. Even if you think you're not a fan of poetry, give this one a try. You have to admit this book has the best title of any that you've seen in a long while.

Carla Seravalli says

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM YOU ARE

James says

Contemporary poetry sometimes is lacking in playfulness and humor. The poems of Mark Bibbins are playful and funny, even at their darkest and most important. Publishers Weekly chose this book as one of the best poetry books of 2014 and it's easy to see why. It has a lot to say about our age of information bombardment and is highly recommended.

Meg says

some wonderfully sharp lines

Philip says

Oh dammit! That's part of what I can say. The other part I can say is that I made a list of reasons in an undisclosed quantity of why this is a favorite. I will only share one of them with you, #15: I get to read this as much as I want for the rest of my life.

Patricia Murphy says

Heard him read at #AWP14 and now I can't get enough. He's cheeky-smart, which is my favorite kind of smart. Also not afraid of political topics (and often mixes them with domestic images, which makes them all the more poignant). I especially appreciate the meta-study of language--spoonerisms, synesthesia, musical play. I keep reading lines I wish I had written.

Some of my favorite moments:

“I will happily call a whole school of red herrings my family.”

“Autobiography is still the sincerest form of flattery.”

"Someone started yelling cardinal
at the sight of blood soaking my sleeve."

"Sickness draws a salary."

"Prudence is a no-headed fish."

"letter-shaped body parts"

"When Honky drops a hankie, please to pick it up."

"What
makes an island: too few canoes."

"roll around on me
like you're putting out a fire."

"as much as an umlaut
changes the sound of waves."

"If we didn't abuse the bible
it would cease to exist."

"we've punched in the world
and suck the money out."

"we're willing to pay extra for a little suspense."

"The only thing worse than advice is an opinion."

"no girls in the porn store."

"One way for me to care about something
is to stack it next to what I forgot."

"How is anyone kissing anyone
possible"

The distance does the winking,
not the boat vanishing in it,
not the sun ramming through it."

Sophie says

"Also please to receive a friend's letter, which arrived torn open and resealed with exactly the kind of heavy-duty tape I would expect him to own."

"The tiny pill of mystery"

"ONE BITE, one cherry, another; so many they become monstrous and unmoored."

--chomp chomp choke/ little bloodclot on the yolk -- "

"too much and death
too little and same"

"When the barber puts the smock on me I become a secret with a head."

"We will meet up at the balloon show with a box of pins."

"I don't have anything much -- what useless fire is light, what distant mobile mouthing."

"What about a paragraph behaves like a room"

"jack of no traits"

"I only need a clean place to lie around, to see a few decent things."

Scott says

I didn't know much about poetry; gave it a shot once, twice, made it through leaves of grass and ended up somewhere between the flowers of evil and Paris spleen. Some writers appear poetic at times, like Nietzsche, or whomever wrote the poetry-like parts in the Bible. Capital P poetry, though, it's probably something else entirely, right?

In recent weeks I've discovered the little poetry books available for a few bucks used on amazon. I order one every few days. Ted Hughes, Thomas Sayers Ellis, John Koethe, Mark Bibbins... They show up unannounced, like, oh hey, it's you! The books are small and short, hundred pages or so. I'll read a few poems in the morning, aloud, not shifting my mind into reverse to reread, nor putting it in park to look up an unfamiliar word, simply experiencing the sensation of reading poetry. I'm getting the hang of it.

They Don't Kill You Because They're Hungry, They Kill You Because They're Full, is a gritty little book that, having gotten into my subconscious, makes me wonder how different of a person I might be now had I read it as a teen. Probably not much, as I was already poring over the verses of Jello Biafra from a tender age. Does that count?

I'm giving it four stars. After a re-read, with word lookups, and after I read a few more gritty little poem books for context, I may up it to five.

Here is an example.

Pat Robertson Transubstantiation Engine No. 2

Well it turns out I'm totally activated

by donations. All you have

to say is the magic word,
ISRAEL, and everyone goes crazy.

If we didn't abuse the Bible
it would cease to exist. O heavenly

flogger you should be watching me
on cable right now.

These clouds
are looking like trouble, in these clouds

I'm looking for trouble.
See there, in the clouds, boiling

like a syphilitic
oatmeal snowman, that's my face.

Timothy Volpert says

i feel like you should probably read a book of poems a couple times before you try to really speak on it, but i really loved this none the less. very insightful etc etc. didn't have any one poem that really gripped me like "The Devil You Don't" from his last book, but I consistently enjoyed all the poems in this book, where that one had more ups and downs.
