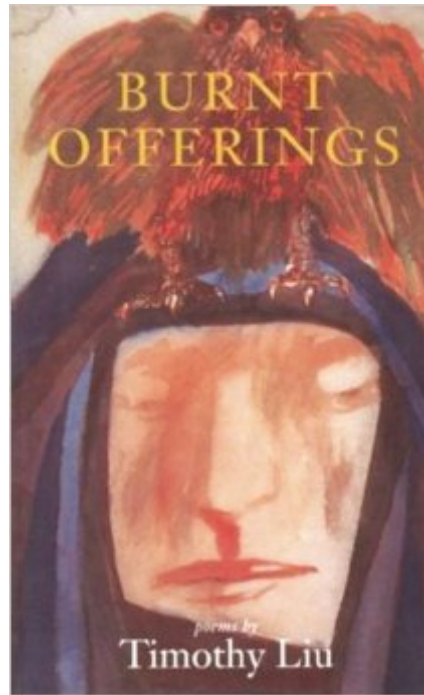


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# Burnt Offerings



## Synopsis

Exploring the interlocking forces of sexuality and spirituality, *Burnt Offerings* continues the trajectory of Liu's first collection of poems, *Vox Angelica*, which won the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. Nominated for a Lambda Book Award in Gay Men's Poetry.

## Book Information

Paperback: 84 pages

Publisher: Copper Canyon Press (August 1, 1995)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #915,408 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Â Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Gay #81 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Regional & Cultural > United States > Asian American #2791 in Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Themes & Styles

## Customer Reviews

I first encountered one of Timothy Liu's poems in an anthology, and was impressed enough to seek out further work of his. "Burnt Offerings" is a collection of his poetry. A significant part of the book reflects a gay Asian male perspective. There are a number of religious references and allusions, and a number of graphic evocations of gay sex. The book is dominated by two longer poems, "With Chaos in Each Kiss" (13 pages long) and "Naked" (10 pages); these are tender, sad poems about the aftermath of a relationship between the speaker and a musician. I was intrigued by Liu's yoking of the motifs of performing arts and love. These two poems really read like they were written by someone who has been there and experienced such love and loss.... Also noteworthy is "The Size of It," a poem about body image, homosexuality, and Asian male identity; this poem has a flavor of painful honesty. Even when at his most graphic and in-your-face, Liu writes with a poetic voice that is appealingly tender and gentle. I love his line, "Only love can make us visible" (from "With Chaos in Each Kiss"). Liu is definitely a poet worth exploring, and his work is a valuable contribution to American poetry, gay literature, and Asian-American literature. For an interesting complementary text, try Allen Ginsberg's "Cosmopolitan Greetings."

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