



## American Amen

By Gary L. McDowell

Dream Horse Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 82 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.2in. Like a man who might go fishing as a diversion only to catch something extraordinary, maybe Gary L. McDowell didn't set out to write a big fat hymn to the human condition. But he did. The brilliant American Amen wrestles, body and spirit, with our belligerent world. Its a tensile poetic line McDowell casts, in the many senses of the word: this poetry throws, sheds, exhales, reckons, sows, shapes, bestows. Part gristle, part faith, American Amen is a beautiful book, reeling in something baffling about adulthood as it glints and flexes, alive, into the air. - Amy Newman Gary L. McDowell's poems shimmer with masterful variety-long sinuous sequences and short intensifying lyrics; personal narratives and prayers to steel, wheat, and corn; family poems, of a father and of a son, yet poems capable of rich otherness: I found my history in the tiny bones of a hummingbird. For all this productive range, the center of McDowell's impressive first book, American Amen, is love, whose abiding act is acceptance. That's what the word amen means-whether in Jewish, Muslim, or Christian usage-and that's the deepest gift among the many...

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