



# The Uses of the Body

By Deborah Landau

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Named one of 12 Favorite Poetry Books of 2015 by *The New Yorker*, one of the "16 Best Poetry Books of 2015" by *BuzzFeed*, a "Book We Can't Wait to Read" by *Vogue*, and in the top "8 New Books to Savor" by *O, the Oprah Magazine*.

*Landau's killer wit evokes Dorothy Parker crossed with Sylvia Plath--leaping spark after spark, growing to deadly dark fire. "*

*--Los Angeles Times*

*"A thrilling meditation on the passages of a woman's life."*

*--O, The Oprah Magazine*

*"Like Richard Linklater's Boyhood, but for girls (and women): Deborah Landau's vividly relatable third collection, The Uses of the Body, reminds us that coming of age lasts well beyond adolescence. "*

*--Vogue*

*Deborah Landau's third collection, The Uses of the Body, is propelled by two unanticipated events--a death and a birth. The drives and vulnerabilities of the female body, and its various "uses," fill these lyrically haunting poems with tenderness, regret, and desire. The poems slant and swerve as Landau explores the complexities of marriage, motherhood, and sexuality, conjuring a cherished domestic life beset by ennui and illness and singing often unspoken truths.*

The uses of the body are wake up.

The uses of the body, illusion.

The uses of the body. Rinse,repeat.

To make another body.

September. Draw the blanket up.

Lace your shoes.

The major and minor passions.

Sunlight. Hair.

The basic pleasures. Tomatoes, Keats,  
meeting a smart man for a drink.

The uses of the body.

It is only a small house. It gets older.

Deborah Landau is the author of three collections of poetry. Her poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *The New Yorker*, *Tin House*, and *The New York Times*. She directs the Creative Writing Program at New York University and lives in Brooklyn.

## **The Uses of the Body By Deborah Landau Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

### Review

- "Landau's killer wit evokes Dorothy Parker crossed with Sylvia Plath--leaping spark after spark, growing to deadly dark fire. *The Uses of the Body* is her best book, its acerbic tone ("The uses of the body, illusion") interspersed with lines of grave and startling beauty. --*The Los Angeles Times*
- "Landau has found an insidiously catchy music in *The Uses of the Body*. It's like weaponized *vers de société*. " --*The New Yorker*
- "Like Richard Linklater's *Boyhood*, but for girls (and women): Deborah Landau's vividly relatable third collection, *The Uses of the Body (Copper Canyon)*, reminds us that coming of age lasts well beyond adolescence. " --*Vogue*
- "Her arch observations create dark interior comedy that's reminiscent of Virginia Woolf or Sylvia Plath....Get this book." -*NPR, All Things Considered*
- "A thrilling meditation on the passages of a woman's life." --*O, The Oprah Magazine*
- "Deborah Landau is (a) fierce poet of desire...Her stunning third book, *The Uses of the Body*, offers a meditation on aging and loss: a series of elegant, long poems that sing, hesitate and haunt." -*The San Francisco Chronicle*
- "As freshly immediate as ever, award-winning poet Landau (*The Last Usable Hour*) reveals that "the uses of the body are manifold," moving in four sections with a roughly chronological feel from wedding parties to flabby bodies around the pool to the realization "But we already *did* everything"--all with an underlying sense of urgency: "Life please explain." As Landau explores her physical self and her sexuality, she's tart, witty, fluid, direct, and brutally honest, and her work can be appreciated by any reader."--*Library Journal, Starred Review*
- "Forces of opposition rule in this gorgeous and unflinching third collection from Landau....Powerful and vulnerable, spare in form and ardent in tone, her lyric sequences broach existential questions as sweeping and timeless as her language is particular and contemporary." -*Publisher's Weekly*
- "Landau shows a Plathian sensibility, a gaze whose honesty regarding the processes of womanhood, motherhood, and aging is as perceptive as it is unsettling." -*Los Angeles Review of Books*

### About the Author

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## Users Review

### From reader reviews:

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**David Mandujano:**

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