

THE TALES

LES FIGUES
PRESS

JESSICA BOZEK

"Unless you are dead, do not leave a message."

-Jessica Bozek

Winner of the 2012 "Not Otherwise Specified" Book Contest as selected by judge Sina Queyras.

The Tales
Jessica Bozek
Introduction by Sina Queyras
Poetry | \$15.00
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Stitching together a post-apocalyptic history from the scraps of fairy tales, war memorials, hunting songs, and disparate scholarship, Jessica Bozek's *The Tales* traces the violence that humans inflict upon one another. As the central narrative of the Lone Survivor becomes revealed through the mouths of various perspectives, Bozek investigates the language that victims and perpetrators alike use to make sense of (and attempt to forget) the aftermath of violence. From ordinary objects—family photographs, sweaters that unravel, old batteries, and lightbulbs—to the remnants of destroyed art and architecture, an annihilated nation is brought into reality, and the Lone Survivor's story is simultaneously documented and invalidated, becoming "a memorial that will disintegrate over time, gray and fray as most of the dead did not have a chance to."

ABOUT JESSICA BOZEK

Jessica Bozek is the author of *The Bodyfeel Lexicon* (Switchback, 2009), as well as several chapbooks: *Squint into the Sun* (Dancing Girl), *Other People's Emergencies* (Hive), *Touristing* (Dusie), and *cor-re-spond-ence* (Dusie). She runs the Small Animal Project Reading Series and lives with her small family in Cambridge, MA.

PRAISE FOR THE TALES

"I want language to be my emergency survival kit. I want it to wake me up. I want it, over and over again, to help me narrate my life, and then narrate it again. Look, describe, look again, describe. I'm convinced there is something we are missing in our meander across the planet. *The Tales* reminds me of this."

—Sina Queyras

PRAISE FOR JESSICA BOZEK

“Jessica Bozek’s writing pushes the reader around, turns its back, says weird things, and shocks with startlingly beautiful images.”

—Natalie Lyalin, *Tarpaulin Sky*

“Bozek’s rhythm is hypnotic, like a song one would sing to a child at night with half-mooned eyes; it is by way of lullaby that this poet awakens the reader to a wonderfully mismatched world of language and identity.”

—Brynne Barnes, *H_NGM_N*

“Bozek creates a tangibly pensive and doleful mood that saturates.”

—Melinda Wilson, *Coldfront Magazine*

