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The Laughter Of The Sphinx
A powerful, indelible new collection by Michael Palmer—“one of America’s most important poets” (The Harvard Review)—Michael Palmer’s new book—a collection in two parts, “The Laughter of the Sphinx” and “Still (a cantata—or nada—for Sister Satan)”—contains 52 poems. The title poem begins “The laughter of the Sphinx / caused my eyes to bleed” and haunts us with the ruin we are making of our world, even as Palmer revels in its incredible beauty. Such central tensions in The Laughter of the Sphinx—between beauty and loss, love and death, motion and rest, knowledge and ignorance—glow in Palmer’s lyrical play of light and entirely hypnotize the reader. The stakes, as always with Palmer, are very high, essentially life and death: “Please favor us with a reply / regarding our one-time offer / which will soon expire.”

**Synopsis**

Paul Auster is right, *The Laughter of the Sphinx* is Michael Palmer’s best book yet. Vertical and horizontal flow of words, the tone and volume of surrealism and symbolism are perfect. Avant-garde and erudite/mysterious and elegant. Consider the “Storm” Basho by my side these many years Little wonder the roof is leaking

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