



# The New Testament

*Jericho Brown*

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**The New Testament** Jericho Brown

**Honored as a "Best Book of 2014" by *Library Journal***

NPR.org writes: "In his second collection, *The New Testament*, Brown treats disease and love and lust between men, with a gentle touch, returning again and again to the stories of the Bible, which confirm or dispute his vision of real life. 'Every last word is contagious,' he writes, awake to all the implications of that phrase. There is plenty of guilt—survivor's guilt, sinner's guilt—and ever-present death, but also the joy of survival and sin. And not everyone has the chutzpah to rewrite The Good Book."—NPR.org

"Erotic and grief-stricken, ministerial and playful, Brown offers his reader a journey unlike any other in contemporary poetry."—*Rain Taxi*

"To read Jericho Brown's poems is to encounter devastating genius."—Claudia Rankine

In the world of Jericho Brown's second book, disease runs through the body, violence runs through the neighborhood, memories run through the mind, trauma runs through generations. Almost eerily quiet in even the bluntest of poems, Brown gives us the ache of a throat that has yet to say the hardest thing—and the truth is coming on fast.

## Fairy Tale

Say the shame I see inching like steam  
Along the streets will never seep  
Beneath the doors of this bedroom,  
And if it does, if we dare to breathe,  
Tell me that though the world ends us,  
Lover, it cannot end our love  
Of narrative. Don't you have a story  
For me?—like the one you tell  
With fingers over my lips to keep me  
From sighing when—before the queen  
Is kidnapped—the prince bows  
To the enemy, handing over the horn  
Of his favorite unicorn like those men  
Brought, bought, and whipped until  
They accepted their masters' names.

**Jericho Brown** worked as the speechwriter for the mayor of New Orleans before earning his PhD in creative writing and literature from the University of Houston. His first book, *PLEASE* (New Issues), won the American Book Award. He currently teaches at Emory University and lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

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