

REVIEW DATA

1. TITLE: CHICKEN
2. AUTHOR: Dennis Kelly
3. Price: \$ 4.50
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GAY SUNSHINE PRESS
P.O. Box 40397
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Chicken consists of a collection of 38 gay poems written and illustrated by Seattle poet Dennis Kelly. Several kinds of gay poems are introduced here, all centered on the theme of young gay love.

The author has already published Gay Sunshine & Fag Rag, and is working on a long gay epic called Cantos Northwest, whose ten first poems can also be found in Chicken. Kelly's language is simple and spontaneous, full of slang and word-games (which can be found in "Graphemics", where the real chicken is "awakened by the difference between syntax and semen/antics").

In many poems the author goes back to Greek Mythology, which he uses in a sensuous/humorous way, such as in the "Catullus Poems", where the Roman Poet addresses his epigrams to Aurelius, Juventius, Heracles, Ameane, and Rufa, in terms such as,

Is it really true, O wife of Menenius?
That you suck off your kid brother?
I can't blame you, really my dear.
How many of us would like to do what
You do. (...)

"Handsome is as Handsome does" is dedicated to Walt Whitman and his new paradisiacal man; to Melville

we have "Handsome Sailorboy", a love song to Billy Budd, and "Melville as Size-Queen", to Moby Dick.

But the best of all are the simple little poems which praise the male nymphet, such as "Chicken" or "Afterwards".

(Review by - Sandra Sirangelo Maggio)