**Little Anodynes**

*Poems*

Jon Pineda  
Foreword by Oliver de la Paz

“Jon Pineda’s *Little Anodynes* is a collection full of awe and great tenderness. Each prose poem presents a prismatic shard of memory, glancing across time from Pineda’s wrenching recollections of his father to fleeting moments with his own children, where he exposes them to the wondrous details of the natural world. *Little Anodynes* is a sensuous and poignant read, filled with lustrous fragmentary scenes of sense and memory. Absolutely captivating.”—Cathy Park Hong, author of *Dance Dance Revolution* and *Engine Empire*

“It’s fitting that Jon Pineda’s sublime *Little Anodynes* alludes to Emily Dickinson in the title, as the poems in this collection manage the same exceptional balance of awareness and wonder that permeates Dickinson’s work. They are filled with the exquisite revelations of fatherhood, family, and the world pressing imminently, ominously, and achingly against them. Through Pineda’s compassion, vision, and gift for unexpected language, we share those tenuous intersections where, as the speaker in ‘Ellipses’ says, we ‘finally see all / is buried underneath our / short lived joy.’”—Adrian Matejka, author of *The Big Smoke*

The third collection by the prize-winning Asian American poet Jon Pineda, *Little Anodynes* is a sequence of lyrical, personal narratives that continue Pineda’s exploration of his biracial identity, the haunting loss of his sister, and the joys—and fears—of fatherhood. With a title inspired by Emily Dickinson, *Little Anodynes* offers poems as “respites,” as breaks in the reader’s life that serve as opportunities for discovery and healing. Pineda deftly uses shortened lines and natural pauses to create momentum, which allows the poems to play out in a manner evocative of fine cinema, as if someone had left a projector running and these narratives were flickering and blending endlessly in an experience shared by the viewer, the storyteller, and the story itself.

*Palmetto Poetry Series* • Nikky Finney, series editor

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Oliver de la Paz is the author of four collections of poetry: *Names Above Houses, Furious Lullaby, Requiem for the Orchard,* and *Post Subject: A Fable.* He is the co-editor of *A Face to Meet the Faces: An Anthology of Contemporary Persona Poetry* and co-chair of the Kundiman advisory board.

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Jon Pineda is the recipient of a Virginia Commission for the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship, the author of the novel *Apology,* winner of the Milkweed National Fiction Prize, and author of the memoir *Sleep in Me,* a Barnes & Noble “Discover Great New Writers” selection and a top memoir of 2010 by *Library Journal.*

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