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# HYENAS ON JOY STREET: A Collection of Plays and Poems

*By Shachar Efrati*



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## HYENAS ON JOY STREET: A Collection of Plays and Poems By Shachar Efrati

The unique quality of this book lies in its autobiographical nature for it's as connected to and isolated from the author as water is from air. This collection consists of four plays in verse, seventeen poems and twenty-five images. Discovery of Fire tells the story of Josephine, a street singer, and Max, a girl runaway and their brief rendezvous. Hyenas on Joy Street the play is an overdue conversation between Shachar and his brother, Diran. Poems, such as Isolation, First Wings and Caring Claudia meditate on love, death and friendship. **ABOUT THE AUTHOR** Since it's only right to say a few words about who I am and how I got to writing this book this is as good a time as any. Poetry came upon me at around 20 years old when I found it leaking out of me. I began doing Open Mics, so nervous that my knees visibly shook and sweat poured generously from my face. Undaunted, I continued sporadically till my mid twenties. Around this time I discovered that my poems were but character expressions. Once I realized this it was relatively easy to make the transition to playwriting. My first public play, Simultaneous Imagination, was written, and expounded upon, while performing it over the course of a few months. After this production I felt restless and empty and on a whim traveled to Paris, in an attempt to take a break from the work and chaos of New York. In Paris I moved into Serge's painting studio. Upon his request I wrote a play for his space called Discovery of Fire. I didn't know what the hell to write nor did I have as much faith in my work as he did. One day while hanging around his studio we talked a while in his garden and huge powerful roses danced. This drove me to wander away from studio and into Montparnasse. As I wandered around a particular corner I saw smoke billowing from a car. As I approached I saw that the car was in flames and the idea of fire was first born. Intimidated by the vision and meandering thoughts I walked on and into the Mont



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## **HYENAS ON JOY STREET: A Collection of Plays and Poems** By Shachar Efrati Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6437276 in Books
- Published on: 2008-07-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .68" w x 6.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 270 pages

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Shachar Efrati was born in Tel Aviv, Israel. He, his twin and older brother grew up in Los Angeles, and then moved back to Tel Aviv. At 12 he moved to Queens, New York. He started writing poetry at 20, and continued through odd jobs, travels, tragic deaths and gigantic loves. *Discovery of Fire* was written in Paris while bouncing from cemeteries to merry-go-rounds; *Simultaneous Imagination*, while raging in Brooklyn at 405 Johnson with Diran, Jeremy and Keith; *Pure Failure* and *Hyenas on Joy Street* amidst the parks and canals of Berlin. Shachar has co-directed, produced and performed in two of his plays. He currently lives in Queens, teaches English, plays guitar and sings. Check out [www.hyenasonjoystreet.com](http://www.hyenasonjoystreet.com) for songs and more.

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