



# MICAH BALLARD

WAIFS  
AND  
STRAYS

CITY LIGHTS SPOTLIGHT NO. 6

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AND  
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CITY LIGHTS  
SAN FRANCISCO



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The editor would like to thank David Meltzer and Erin Morrill for their assistance  
with this book.

CITY LIGHTS SPOTLIGHT

The City Lights Spotlight Series was founded in 2009, and is edited by Garrett Caples.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Ballard, Micah.

Waifs and strays / Micah Ballard.  
p. cm. — (City Lights spotlight series ; 6)  
Poems.

ISBN 978-0-87286-544-0

I. Title.

PS3602.A62115W35 2011

811'.6—dc22

2011017876

All City Lights Books are distributed to the trade by  
Consortium Book Sales and Distribution: [www.cbsd.com](http://www.cbsd.com)

For small press poetry titles by this author and others,  
visit Small Press Distribution: [www.spdbooks.com](http://www.spdbooks.com)

City Lights Books are published at the City Lights Bookstore,  
261 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133  
[www.citylights.com](http://www.citylights.com)

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## HAZY NOW

these edens  
dozing thru the day  
strange  
they show up later  
old oblivions  
left  
from the blotter.  
Hazy now  
these edens  
the feeling  
lasts for days  
strange  
how we fail remember  
a determined will  
  
to match the flame

## A NEW FACE IN THE DRAWING ROOM

Strike a match  
an oath to sabotage any sign of recognition.  
Pledged to the handprint, in the cell  
on the page, pledged to the unseen  
who oppose. Who knows  
& watches it moves it  
on the page, in the cell.

Held by a fire escape over Golden Gate  
the hallway looks quiet again  
petty thieves from the local hillside  
Western Addition hoodery  
at each line a shout out  
to the dead, the resurrected  
yellow liquor poured on cracks  
at each sip an inheritance  
we pay our rent with, rent it out  
so the light stays on.



He escaped with another  
& was disposed of immediately.  
Was bought out on bail, double records  
then a shot to the head the eyes through the lung  
I receive them all as smoke and ashes  
living things breathed  
passed on from ceremony, temporary nods  
for the disconsolate hours  
side streets unseen on the page, in the cells

## POOLS OF OLYMPIA

Those who pass through us  
cannot be touched

I raise my hand & allow another  
first unmuffled slurring

later colloquial blending  
I learned it from spilling their crowns

& these are the Soldiers of Bourbon  
I am a pupil of their torsos

we would travel for a night  
then practice at making ourselves available

many divinities imposingly free  
it's not important to know

who they are, just what they do  
smashed glass gutter core

exact proportions darkly mingled  
it is the right of the rite accomplished

the highest farewell between heaven and earth  
luminous species, visible breathing

a real sermon in marble  
main attractions left unfinished