

A lyrical journey through the volatility and violence of contemporary America

This American Autopsy

Poems

By José Antonio Rodríguez

In this powerful collection of free-verse poetry, immigrant, poet, and memoirist José Antonio Rodríguez encapsulates the experiences of an artist and citizen caught between two worlds. At once deeply personal and thematically expansive, these works offer a bracing look at the darker impulses of contemporary America.

Saturated with allusions to family, immigration, sexuality, and violence, *This American Autopsy* is also an unsettling meditation on life and death. With its provocative title, the collection calls to mind an image of our nation as a body awaiting examination to determine the cause of death. In this scenario the poet vacillates between various roles: coroner, pathologist, and the body itself.

Some of the poems in this collection look to the past: events such as the Space Shuttle *Challenger* explosion or the author's first trip to an American grocery store. Others muse on more recent tragedies, including the racial violence in Ferguson, Missouri, and the illicit drug trade. A few of the poems are written in Spanish, and the volume concludes with two English translations of these poems, which the author originally wrote in his native language.

Even as he paints a vivid picture of American diversity, Rodríguez exposes the deterioration of our nation—broken promises, failed prosperity, the shattering of dreams. Intimate and urgent, these timely dispatches from the Texas-Mexico border reveal the tensions and contradictions of today's America.

José Antonio Rodríguez, Assistant Professor in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Texas–Rio Grande Valley, is the author of *House Built on Ashes: A Memoir*, *The Shallow End of Sleep*, and *Backlit Hour*.

VOLUME 23 IN THE CHICANA AND CHICANO
VISIONS OF THE AMÉRICAS SERIES

AUGUST 2019

\$14.95 PAPER 978-0-8061-6396-3

76 PAGES, 5.5 X 8.5

POETRY/LITERATURE

ORDER ONLINE AT OUPRESS.COM

ORDER BY PHONE

INSIDE THE U.S. 800-848-6224 EXT. 1

INTERNATIONAL 919-966-7449

CALL CENTER HOURS

8:30AM-5:00PM EST


ORDER BY E-MAIL

ORDERS@LONGLEAFSERVICES.ORG

ORDER BY FAX

FAX: 800-272-6817 (24 HOURS)

FAX: 919-962-2704 (24 HOURS)

 SIGN UP FOR NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS,
SPECIAL OFFERS, AND MORE AT OUPRESS.COM

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH
LONGLEAF SERVICES, INC. THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IS
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION. WWW.OU.EDU/EOO



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS

OUPRESS.COM

CONNECT WITH US  