



ABOUT THE BOOK

The title of Katie Manning's *Hereverent* offers readers a first glimpse into the fierce but gentle heart that propels life through this collection. An author-created neologism, this portmanteau of “heretical” and “reverent” describes these poems born out of Manning’s frustration with watching people take language from the Bible and weaponize it against other people. At times barbed and challenging, and at other times playful and joyous, this work is a portal into another universe for any reader who understands that love and kindness are truly sacred.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katie Manning is the founding editor-in-chief of *Whale Road Review* and a professor of writing at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. She is the author of *Tasty Other*, which won the 2016 Main Street Rag Poetry Book Award, and her recent chapbooks include *How to Play* (Louisiana Literature Press, 2022) and *28,065 Nights* (River Glass Books, 2020). Her poems have appeared in *American Journal of Nursing*, *The Lascaux Review*, *New Letters*, *Poet Lore*, and *Verses Daily*, and her poem “What to Expect” was featured on the Poetry Unbound podcast from The On Being Project. Find her online at www.katiemanningpoet.com.



PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

With her signature wit and warmth and keen intelligence, Katie Manning has—with her astonishing *Hereverent*—brought her midrashic imagination into the service of an inclusive corrective to the pharisaical anxieties that have, of late, threatened to erode the compassion and joy of the Gospel. May it be blessed.

—Scott Cairns, author of *Slow Pilgrim: The Collected Poems* and *Anaphora: New Poems*

“I love this clipped voice—just the essentials—eclectic, irreverently reverent, or is it reverently irreverent—”

—Diane Glancy, author of *A Line of Driftwood*, *the Ada Blackjack Story* and *Home Is the Road, Wandering the Land, Shaping the Spirit*

“Scholars and theologians have been discussing the function and power of Biblical language for much of the last hundred years. Some have called for a de-mythologizing of how we understand Scripture, so that the original power and glory of the language of God can be experienced, renewing our awe and wonder. During this time, it has fallen to poets to try to craft this new language, to de-mytholigize texts with thousands of years of dogma and interpretation behind them. Into that fray wades Katie Manning. With clever excisions and deft lineation, Manning reinvigorates our understanding, our sense of what might be happening in those passages we know can’t be as simple as we hear every Sunday. From ‘The Book of Verbs’: ‘listen / my womb // do not spend your strength / on kings // it is not for kings // crave / and / let / be.’ Breathing new life into Scriptural language, finding the poetry within, is no easy task. Manning shows us a way, a vast, gorgeous poetry within those words we think we know.”

—Thom Caraway, editor of *Rock & Sling*



AGAPE EDITIONS is a literary micropress that was originally created in southern California, now ensconced in a haunted town amidst the bright hills of upstate New York. We publish work that enacts or engages with various aspects of the mystical or the Numinous. We are interested in ecstatic experience, moments of vision, and the potential of spirituality & religion to serve as conduits for cultural identity & survival. Our purpose is interfaith and intercultural as well as literary.