

“WE CAN
WRITE OUR
OWN
STORIES SO
MUCH
BETTER
THAN THOSE
WHO USE US
TO GLIMPSE
WHAT IT’S
LIKE ON THE
OUTSIDE.”

In 2010, Alex DiFrancesco had a different name and was a missing person. Alone in a mental hospital, they began to have fantasies of running away permanently, changing their name, growing a beard. In their journey to coming out as transgender, DiFrancesco moved from New York City to the Midwest. *Psychopomps* follows them on the search for family, marriage, relationships with other trans people, attempts to build community, and for the elusive link to ancient beliefs about the special spiritual role of the trans individual in society.

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Once I'd finished reading *Psychopomps*, I felt heartbroken. And so I started all over and felt it again—heartbroken, and healed.

—JAMES ALLEN HALL, author of *I Liked You Better Before I Knew You So Well*

DiFrancesco addresses questions many of us aren't brave enough to ask—about the lives we choose for ourselves and the lives we don't. Empathy and humility shine through this immensely readable prose in a collection that seems to connect the dots of **everything that matters:**

friendship, love, identity and, of course, ghosts.

—MARY ADKINS, author of *When You Read This*

DiFrancesco has brought themselves closer to all of us, with their **vibrant prose and messy humanity...**

DiFrancesco shows us that there is a little bit of all of us in everyone. —JOSELIN LINDER, author of *The Family Gene*

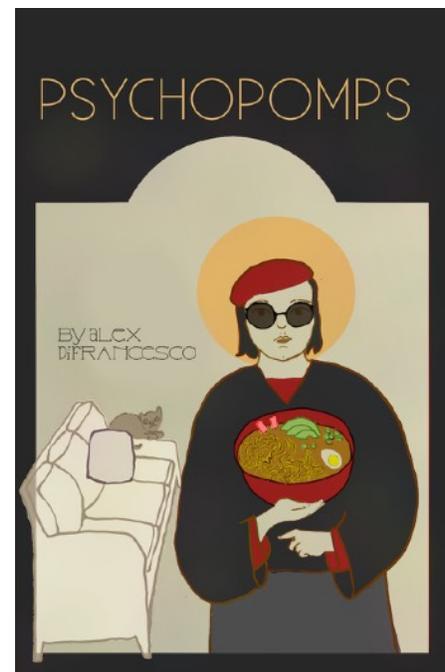
Psychopomps is a collection of essays that examines not just the ways in which we are torn apart, but more importantly, **the ways we knit ourselves back together.** —SARAH EINSTEIN, author of *Mot: A Memoir*

Psychopomps

by Alex DiFrancesco

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ALEX DIFRANCESCO is a writer of fiction and nonfiction whose work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Tin House*, *Brevity*, and more. They are a 2017 winner of SAFTA's OUTSpoken Competition, and were long listed in Cosmonauts Avenue's Inaugural Nonfiction Prize. They have recently moved to Ohio, where they are still trying to wrap their head around "Sweetest Day."