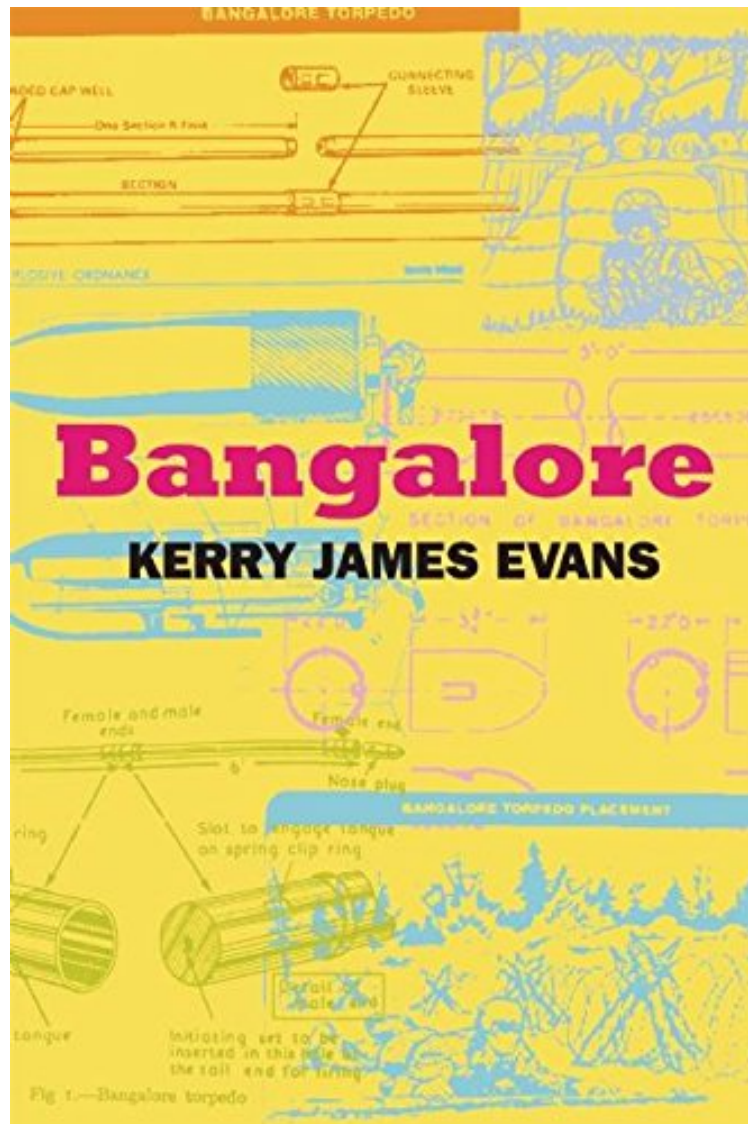


Bangalore

Kerry James Evans

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#2188263 in Books Copper Canyon Press 2013-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.90 x .40 x 6.90l, .0 #File Name: 155659405496 pages | File size: 70.Mb

Kerry James Evans : Bangalore before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bangalore:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worth it for the first poem alone By Laura Minor Excellent first book by a fiercely talented poet.

Evans jarring debut book of poems draws on his experience as a combat engineer for the Army National Guard A strong contribution to wartime poetry composed by combatants Given recent controversy over domestic surveillance

and enlisted whistle-blowers, this is a necessary read, indeed. Drawing upon Kerry James Evans's experience in the military, *Bangalore* speaks from the position of a natural class warrior who came of age desperately poor in some of the most hardscrabble parts of our country. Whether highlighting a barracks argument about gays in the military or contemplating pent-up eros, the poems are experientially political in the best sense. From "Lilacs and Razor Wire": Bent over in a folding chair, my arm a rag of oil, I scrape the carbon from my M-16 with a pipe cleaner here in the armory named after a young Colonel who hanged himself. No one sitting here really knows whether or not the Colonel was a homosexual. I bring up my mother-in-law, who is. Outside the window the local convicts have decided to mow down the lilacs blossoming along the roadside. We go back to talking about homosexuals and homosexuality, and I say: We are all a little gay, which lands me on the floor in a wrestling position . . . Kerry James Evans served six years in the Army National Guard as a combat engineer. He received his MFA in creative writing from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and is enrolled in the PhD program in English-Creative Writing from Florida State University. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida.

From Booklist Evans jarring debut book of poems draws on his experience as a combat engineer for the Army National Guard. Like fellow soldier-poet Brian Turner (*Here, Bullet*, 2005), Evans served in the armed forces during the awful, shell-shocked years immediately after 9/11. Unlike Turner, Evans did not complete a tour of duty overseas, and the collections' tenor and content reflect this: I've seen the Mojave, but I've never seen the desert. / In training, I swept for mines, but I've never seen / my brother's leg destroyed after detonation. Evans articulates the distance between the war in Iraq and the war as he felt it from afar, tethering the poetic voice to the sharp sensory impressions of his childhood home in the South: the quarter horses in your uncle's barn, / or that goddamn clay red as your wife's hair. A strong contribution to wartime poetry composed by combatants, including Randall Jarrell's *Little Friend, Little Friend* (1945), Michael Casey's *Obscenities* (1972), and Yusef Komunyakaa's *Dien Cai Dau* (1988). Given recent controversy over domestic surveillance and enlisted whistle-blowers, this is a necessary read, indeed. --Diego Bez

About the Author Kerry James Evans: Kerry James Evans served six years in the Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer. He received his MFA in Creative Writing from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and is enrolled in the Ph.D. program in English-Creative Writing from Florida State University.