



Hallelujah Time!

John L. Stanizzi

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When former New England Poet of the Year John L. Stanizzi decided to compare Bob Marley's lyrics with the biblical excerpts that had inspired them, he didn't expect to experience such a profound change in his own sense of the world. Over a period of five years, he found himself wanting to go beyond simply finding the passages that spoke to Marley; he wanted to experience the union of the biblical quotes and the essence of Marley's songs, and apply it to his life, his relationship with others, and his poetry. This is the result. "If we accept, as we should, that in the best of roots reggae there exists this wonderful convergence of sensuality, political awareness, spiritual intensity and communal celebration while achieving the most elegant moments of lyric grace and vulnerability, then we must accept that John Stanizzi's Hallelujah Time is a sequence of poems wholly steeped in the reggae aesthetic, and we are the better for this." ~ Kwame Dawes, author of *Duppy Conqueror: New and Selected Poems* "Again and again in this image-laden collection of poems, John Stanizzi adapts Bob Marley's lyrics as resonant starting points for his own formally observant and wide-ranging engagements with a troubled world. What I find most pitch-perfect and moving is how Stanizzi insists, as Marley did, that we can, even with all of our shortcomings, respond without naiveté to trauma, loss, and war with generosity and love; in this regard his poetry is a rare exemplar." ~ Jonathan Andersen, author of *Stomp and Sing* "Spirituality played an important role in my Father's lyrics, life, and vision of hope. We are blessed to see his message translated into such divine poetry alongside scripture. One Love!" ~ Cedella Marley

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