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Skunk Hammock

Britton Cody Lumpkin
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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SKUNK HAMMOCK: POEMS

by

Cody Lumpkin

A Dissertation

Presented to the Faculty of
The Graduate College at the University of Nebraska
In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
For the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Major: English

Under the Supervision of Professor Stephen Behrendt

Lincoln, Nebraska

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SKUNK HAMMOCK: POEMS

Cody Lumpkin, Ph.D.

University of Nebraska, 2011

Adviser: Stephen Behrendt

Skunk Hammock: Poems, a poetry collection by Cody Lumpkin, explores the confluence of man-made objects with the natural world. Lumpkin's subject matter varies widely. From poems derived from the detritus of popular culture like Spam and Mr. Snuffleupagus to poems where prairie dogs and egging houses are the focus, Lumpkin works to render material poetic that is typically not seen as poetic. A number of his poems concern themselves with the perception of animals. Influenced by the poetry of Elizabeth Bishop, David Bottoms, Robert Hayden, and Claudia Emerson, Lumpkin seeks to show animals not as mere symbolic vessels, but as embodied beings in and of themselves. As a writer, Lumpkin gravitates toward concepts that flummox him. The objects and ideas that he has mixed feelings about often end up being the subject matter of his work. *Skunk Hammock* shows a persona at odds with both himself and the world. In a sense, as the persona makes these poems, he unmakes himself. Survival is achieved through humor that is often sardonic and self-deprecating.

