

# ALL THE NAMES GIVEN

RAYMOND ANTROBUS

2 SEPTEMBER 2021 | £10.99 | S FORMAT

"What a beautiful book Raymond Antrobus has written! I love it. So much pain, so much tenderness, so much music and invention and passion in *All The Names Given*. . . Antrobus has a special gift of making music from stories and giving his lyrics gravity and urgency that's inimitable."

**ILYA KAMINSKY, AUTHOR OF DEAF REPUBLIC**

"In *All The Names Given*, the essential tension is knowledge. Knowledge of self, knowledge of others. These poems make the sublime leap or union of witness to 'with-ness,' so their knowledge is not speculative but holds together, beautiful and fraught, the broken burden of honesty: love.

Antrobus is a phenomenal poet."

**ISHION HUTCHINSON**

---

***Building on his award-winning debut collection, The Perseverance, All the Names Given is a collection of intimate, deeply personal poems flickering with gods and ghosts, and the painful electricity that runs up and down the wires of lineage and inheritance.***

Raymond Antrobus's much anticipated second collection continues his essential investigation into language, miscommunication, place, and memory. Beginning with poems meditating on the author's surname – one which shouldn't have survived into the modern era – Antrobus then examines the rich and fraught history carried within it. As he describes a childhood caught between intimacy and brutality, sound and silence, and conflicting racial and cultural identities, the poem becomes a space in which the poet can reckon with his own ancestry, and bear witness to the indelible violence of the legacy wrought by colonialism. The poems travel through space, shifting between England, South Africa, Jamaica, and the American South, and move fluently from family history, through the lust of adolescence, and finally into a vivid and complex array of marriage poems – with the poet older, wiser, and more accepting of love's fragility.

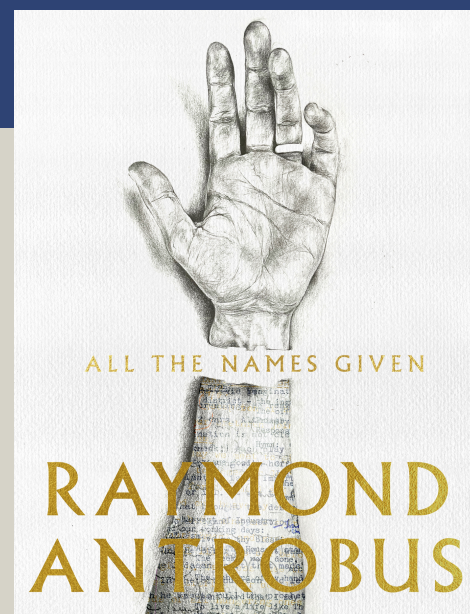
Throughout, *All The Names Given* is punctuated with [Caption Poems] partially inspired by Deaf sound artist Christine Sun Kim, which attempt to fill in the silences and transitions between the poems, as well as moments inside and outside of them. Direct, open, formally sophisticated, *All The Names Given* breaks new ground both in form and content: the result is a timely, humane and tender book from one of the most important young poets of his generation.

**Raymond Antrobus is available for interview / features.**

**Please direct enquiries to Alice Dewing**

**[alice.dewing@macmillan.com](mailto:alice.dewing@macmillan.com)**

**07833 245605 / @alicemaydewing**



**RAYMOND ANTROBUS**

Raymond Antrobus was born in London, Hackney to an English mother and Jamaican father, he is the author of *To Sweeten Bitter* and *The Perseverance*. In 2019 he became the first ever poet to be awarded the Rathbone Folio Prize for best work of literature in any genre. Other accolades include the Ted Hughes award, PBS Winter Choice, A Sunday Times Young Writer of the year award and The Guardian Poetry Book Of The Year 2018, as well as being shortlisted for the Griffin Prize and Forward Prize. In 2018 he was awarded The Geoffrey Dearmer Prize, (Judged by Ocean Vuong), for his poem *Sound Machine*. His poem *Jamaican British* was added to the GCSE syllabus in 2019.

**#AllTheNamesGiven**

**@picadorbooks**

**PICADOR**

## **FURTHER PRAISE FOR RAYMOND ANTROBUS:**

'These poems are revelations. In *All the Names Given*, Antrobus traces a new dimension where the irreducible particularity of self—race and gender, disability and sexuality, ancestry and futurity—buzzes with coded sound, refusing reduction. This collection is so obviously at the forefront of a new canon whose singular and evocative approach to lyricism and imagistic play demonstrates not only the necessity of our multilingual and multimodal realities, but 'the volume of their power,' too.'

**MEG DAY, AUTHOR OF *LAST PSALM AT SEA LEVEL***

'Raymond Antrobus is as searching a poet as you're likely to find writing today.'

**KAVEH AKBAR**

'An insightful, frank and intimate rumination on language, identity, heritage, loss and the art of communication. . .Ranging from tender elegies about his father to frank interrogations of deafness, Antrobus highlights the persistence of memory and our need to connect. . .These are courageous autobiographical poems of praise, difficulties, testimony and love.'

**MALIKA BOOKER ON *THE PERSEVERANCE***

'Raymond Antrobus's compelling debut, *The Perseverance*, confronts deeply rooted prejudice against deaf people.'

**THE GUARDIAN, POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR (*THE PERSEVERANCE*)**

'[A] memorable collection. . .Antrobus interlaces wit and pathos as he examines his identity as a deaf British-Jamaican man in a world between sign language and speech.'

**THE SUNDAY TIMES, POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR (*THE PERSEVERANCE*)**

'This book is far bigger than d/Deafness ... localising identities in the entire bodyscape, be they physical, social, racial, class or religion-based. . . It channels Danez Smith, Malika Booker and Caroline Bird, in formal poems, erasures, free verse, innovative use of Makaton symbols, translation, prose, and a blackout version of Ted Hughes' 'Deaf School'; probably the best poem I read all year, and it doesn't even have any words in it.'

**WILL BARRETT, POETRY SCHOOL BOOK OF THE YEAR (*THE PERSEVERANCE*)**

'The rare gift of this collection is that it makes us reassess our relationship with communication. [...] The emotive, intuitive power of this work is a signature of a poet who not only understands, but indeed 'overstands' his position in society.'

**MARIA TAYLOR, *UNDER THE RADAR*, ON *THE PERSEVERANCE***

'A wild patience keeps Antrobus outside *The Perseverance*, and the results are joyful, hospitable, generous and forgiving.'

**DAWN WOOD, *DURA*, ON *THE PERSEVERANCE***