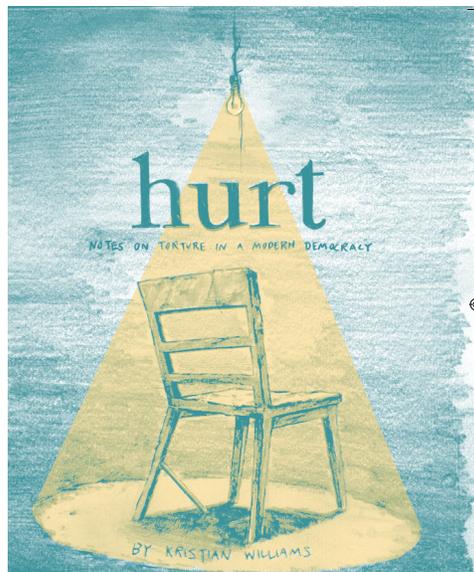


HURT: Notes on Torture in a Modern Democracy

by KRISTIAN WILLIAMS

“For more than a decade Kristian Williams has been poking at the grim underbelly of U.S. politics with unrelenting clarity. In *Hurt: Notes on Torture in a Modern Democracy*, Williams levels his attention on a wide range of issues, from torture to prison abolition to anarchism to the role of media in contemporary society. For those willing to engage the complexities and shortcomings of U.S. American democracy—replete with its internal contradictions, marginalized populations, professionalized politics, and yammering classes—Kristian Williams is your guy and *Hurt* is a constructive step forward.” —**Jules Boykoff**, author of *Beyond Bullets: The Suppression of Dissent in the United States* (AK Press, 2007).

“As prisoners from Georgia, Ohio, and California decry the torture of long-term isolation and years of brutality, as we mark the 40th anniversary of the Attica Rebellion and remember how New York tortured surviving prison leaders, *Hurt: Notes on Torture in a Modern Democracy* by Kristian Williams is an important contribution to deepening our commitment to ending human rights violations and fighting for a more just world.” —**Claude Marks**, former political prisoner and director of the Freedom Archives (producer of the films *Legacy of Torture* and *Cointelpro 101*).



“Harm is a multifaceted and complex experience; be it caused by interpersonal violence, the common shocks of everyday life, or the various machines and institutions of our violent society. But this harm becomes hurt, and it is far more egregious, when it is at the hands of the state. In these short, engaging, and readable chapters Kristian Williams explores the hurt caused by the state when it chooses to use torture. *Hurt* challenges the modern, democratic states’ use of torture as part of challenging the state itself. To challenge the state we have many tasks, reading *Hurt* is the first.” —**Kevin Van Meter** of the **Team Colors Collective**, Co-Editor of *Uses of a Whirlwind* (AK Press, 2010) and Co-Author of *Winds From Below and Other Essays* (PM Press, 2012).

HURT is Portland activist Kristian Williams’ collection of articles and interviews on the history, psychology, and current state of torture in democratic societies. Williams, author of *Our Enemies in Blue* and *American Methods: Torture and the Logic of Domination*, has pulled together a vast and comprehensive resource on this abominable act. Articles include David Cunningham’s “Prisons, Torture, and Imperialism,” a piece on the anarchist perspective taken from comments at the 2008 Anarchist Bookfair in San Francisco, and a great essay on writing about torture, among many others. This sober 64-page document is a heavy piece of work—dark, informative, and oft times harrowing. But it’s also about working hard to intact change. As says Williams in the Gyozo Nehez interview, “At the outset, I think it’s more important to have a sense of hope, that things can be different and through our actions we can contribute to that change. The joy comes later, from struggle itself as much as from victory.” *HURT* is a how-to manual on fighting and understanding torture—a piece of the struggle itself.



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Kristian Williams is the author of *American Methods: Torture and the Logic of Domination*. His first book, *Our Enemies in Blue: Police and Power in America*, was published in 2004, and has been re-released by South End. His work on policing and torture has also appeared in *Counterpunch*, *New Politics*, *In These Times*, and in the collection *Confrontations*. In addition to researching state violence, Williams also frequently writes about comics and cartooning. He is a regular contributor to *The Comics Journal*; and he’s discussed comics in some surprising places, including the *L.A. Daily Journal* and the *Columbia Journalism Review*. He is presently at work on a book about Oscar Wilde and anarchism. Williams is a volunteer with Rose City Copwatch, in Portland, Oregon.

Microcosm Publishing strives to add credibility to zine writers and their ethics, teach self empowerment, show hidden history, and nurture people’s creative side! Now based in Lansing, KS and Portland, OR, Joe Biel started the distro and then-record-label out of his bedroom in 1996. Since then we’ve grown to become one of the largest zine distributors in the world, reaching an international audience through our website and retail store.

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