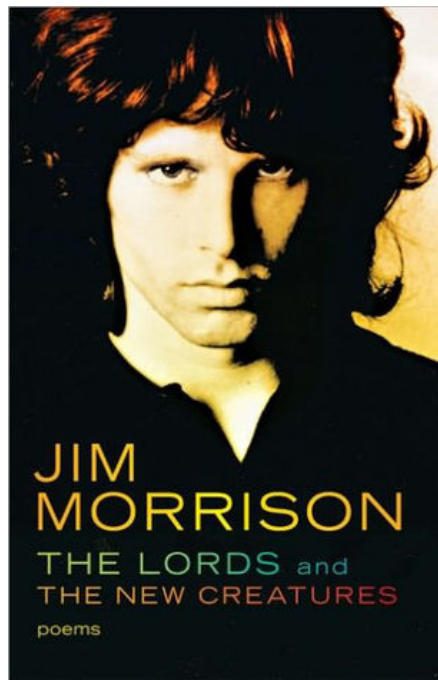




The Lords and the New Creatures

Jim Morrison

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Originally self-published as two separate volumes in 1969 (*The Lords/Notes on Vision*, which Morrison described as "a thesis on film aesthetics," and *The New Creatures*, a surreal portrait of modern existence), the late singer's first published volume of poetry gives a revealing glimpse of an era and the man whose songs and savage performances have left an indelible impression on our culture. This collection, born out of the tumultuous social and political landscape of the late sixties, is as intense, sensual, and compelling as Jim Morrison's persona was during the Doors' peak. His fast life and mysterious death remain controversial more than forty years later.

The Lords and the New Creatures Details

Date : Published 1971 by Touchstone (first published 1969)

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Author : Jim Morrison

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From Reader Review The Lords and the New Creatures for online ebook

Diana says

The first part of this book is more like thoughts and musings than poems; they're unusual and thought-provoking.

The voyeur, the peeper, the Peeping Tom, is a dark comedian. He is repulsive in his dark anonymity, in his secret invasion. He is pitifully alone. But, strangely, he is able through this same silence and concealment to make unknowing partner of anyone within his eye's range. This is his threat and power.

There are no glass houses. The shades are drawn and "real" life begins. Some activities are impossible in the open. And these secret events are the voyeur's game. He seeks them out with his myriad army of eyes--like the child's notion of a Deity who sees all. "Everything?" asks the child. "Yes, everything," they answer, and the child is left of cope with this divine intrusion.

(I've been on a Jim Morrison kick and so was delighted to find this 1971 edition a few days ago in a Value Village.)

Nick Black says

lol@u jim morrison, shut up and sing 5-2-1 kthxbye.

Julia Rodriguez says

4.5 stars

Valentina says

"In that year there was
an intense visitation
of energy.
I left school & went down
to the beach to live.

I slept on a roof
At night the moon became
a woman's face.
I met the Spirit of Music." JDM

Annie says

"All games contain the idea of death."

Just one of many insightful lines of Jim Morrison's *The Lords and The New Creatures* - a collection I was delighted to find recently in a used book store and to revisit after a twenty-year hiatus.

"We all live in the city.

The city forms - often physically, but inevitably psychically - a circle. A Game. A ring of death with sex at its center. Drive towards outskirts of city suburbs. At the edge discover zones of sophisticated vice and boredom, child prostitution. But in the grim ring immediately surrounding the daylight business district exists the only real crowd life of our mound, the only street life, night life. Diseased specimens in dollar hotels, boarding houses, bars, pawn shops, burlesques and brothels, in dying arcades which never die in streets and streets of all-night cinemas."

The poet's perspective starts like a hawk circling 'round the city, spiraling down into the center - getting closer and closer to its prey - for Morrison, the truth - pure vision unencumbered by sense perception. My brother referred to Morrison as a "preacher," and this is astute, for the poet is critical of the passive and hypnotic nature of cinema:

"We are content with the "given" in sensation's quest. We have been metamorphosised from a mad body dancing on hillsides to a pair of eyes staring in the dark."

And later:

"Films are collections of dead pictures which are given artificial insemination.

Film spectators are quiet vampires."

The collection is split into two parts, and near the end of the first, "The Lords: Notes on Vision," Morrison

again rails against the dangers modern-day pop culture:

"The Lords appease us with images. They give us books, concerts, galleries, shows, cinemas. Especially the cinemas. Through art they confuse us and blind us to our enslavement. Art adorns our prison walls, keeps us silent and diverted and indifferent."

I have to admit, I have always been - and still am - a bit more enamored with this first section, "The Lords." "The New Creatures" has a different tone, focus and even style - more verse than prose. It is savage in its imagery:

The snake, the lizard, the insect eye
the huntsman's green obedience.
Quick, in raw time, serving
stealth & slumber,
grinding warm forests into restless lumber.

Now for the valley.
Now for the syrup hair.
Stabbing the eyes, widening skies
behind the skull bone.
Swift end of hunting.
Hung round the swollen torn breast
& red-stained throat.
The hounds gloat.
Take her home.
Carry our sister's body, back
to the boat."

I interpret this second half to be a description of what we are becoming - these new creatures of impure perception, out of touch with reality, blind savages returning to primal states:

The City. Hive, Web, or severed
insect mound. All citizens heirs
of the same royal parent.

The caged beast, the holy center,
a garden in the midst of the city.

Regardless of whether or not one appreciates The Doors or even considers Jim Morrison a "true" poet, this collection is thought-provoking and well worth reading.

Dane Cobain says

Funnily enough, you should be able to get a good idea of what you're getting here before you start reading. This collection combines the only two books of poetry that were published during Jim Morrison's turbulent lifetime.

Aarøn VE says

Morrison's writing brings up so many emotions, it's impossible not to feel something when reading his work. Especially the section titled 'The Lords,' I began to feel anxious, malicious, spaced out, and feelings as if the edge were encroaching upon me. An absolutely wonderful and quick read.

Adam says

The Lord's, And the New Creatures

Author: Jim Morrison

Reviewed by: Adam Michaelis

A man that had the power to change a generation, He made music with a band that had a great impact on the scene. He was a poetic man and with his controversial words and experience of life itself he wrote The Lord's and The New Creatures. This book will seduce you with its hypnotic words and will change the perspective of everything after it is read. Before this book we as people were blind. This book opens the true light on society.

This was the "Lizard King's" first book of poems and it focuses on political events and revealing the dark side on society itself. "Modern circles of Hell: Oswald (?) kills president. Oswald enters taxi. Oswald stops at rooming house. Oswald leaves taxi. Oswald kills officer Tippit. Oswald sheds jacket. Oswald is captured. He escaped into a movie house." In this excerpt he is describing the later events after JFK's assassination on Nov 22, 1963. He also wrote about the psychology of human characteristics. In another excerpt he describes this character or as the voyeur or the peeper persuading this child but the voyeur hides behind the shades. Some of his writings really makes you think and can confuse one at times. I for one got lost at some parts but in our book club discussions we analyzed the pieces and we understood them together.

This book was also split into two sections, The Lord's and The New Creatures hence the name. The New Creatures talked about us as humans being more savage like beats underneath the common people. In a small story it is this man who travels through the desert exposing him to the elements. It is a story of a lizard man and a lizard woman and with creative words and pictures he paints a story so vivid it will feel like you are experiencing what he is writing. With words like "Insect eyes" and "Dead crackling wires dance pools of sea blood" hides a deeper meaning that the reader must discover on his own. To judge this book and its meaning is in the hands of the reader himself/herself.

I really enjoyed this book because I haven't read a book of poetry before and it made me understand that it doesn't have to be just simple words and text to get a point or story across. Just how he described the generation of drugs, sex, and rock n' roll really fascinated me. I also liked the words he used because they really painted a picture for me. I hope whomever reads this book will enjoy it as much as I do.

Julie Rylie says

he is one of the most intelligent and sensitive human beings that ever walked on earth. i think this says it all.

his poetry really resembles Rimbaud, i think he was his most notorious influence.

i prefer to "listen" to his poems through music or spoken words, but 5 stars for the lizard king, he sure can do anything.

Paul Gleason says

These early Morrison poems are tremendous. The collection simmers with the influences that - I don't think - would ever cohere into a coherent vision. But what makes it so important is that it shows Morrison's intellectual and passionate engagement with his influences and, perhaps more controversially, show that he probably wasn't cut out to be a rock frontman and Bozo Dionysus but a poet.

Influences: Nietzsche, shamanism, Rimbaud, Burroughs, Blake, a host of avant-garde filmmakers.

Morrison tries to amalgamate Nietzsche's primitivism and sense of the sacred, with shamanism, Rimbaud's illuminations, Burroughs' Nova Mob, Blake's visions. What comes through is the excitement of discovery and some truly sensitive and great poetry.

In fact, this book and the first two Doors albums - which, if memory serves - come from the same notebook jottings are truly Morrison's masterpieces. The records from Waiting for the Sun to L.A. Woman are truly superfluous in comparison. Sure, they contain some great songs but NOT the singular vision that Morrison possessed before he made it big.

The collection really does make him seem more like Rimbaud than anyone else. He did burn out on poetry and creativity early on and tried to live the existence about which Nietzsche writes. He couldn't do it. He had a bad heart and could never live as a walking aesthetic construction, a walking work of art.

Part of me, after reading this, wishes that I'd never heard of Morrison. Perhaps he could have lived on - had his heart held out - to have been a great and unheard of poet, writing his own Illuminations, a modern-day Rimbaud.

Richard Sharp says

The Doors, and in particular Morrison, were an important cultural influence in my novel on the so-called silent generation, "The Duke Don't Dance." Morrison spoke to both the disaffected younger generation at home as well as those enmeshed in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, where the Doors' recordings were highly popular, or perhaps better described as addictive. He appealed to both the simple despair of those who summarized the continuous stream of casualties in the words "it don't mean nothin'" and those seeking some intellectual anchor in the references to Blake, Brecht and ancient Irish legends. Morrison's poetry is fractured

and obscure, but not merely the ramblings of a drug addict. Still, it can only be appreciated in the context of the widespread national trauma of the '60s and '70s, not today's compartmentalized society where warriors, minorities and poor are insulated from the mainstream.

Jamie Sigal says

Meh. For die-hard Doors fans only, and I'm a die-hard Doors fan and still don't find much worth out of this collection other than that it's nice to have on my shelf.

Sara says

"Do you dare
deny my
potency
my kindness
my forgiveness?
Just try
you will fry
like the rest
in holiness"

RIP, Lizard King.

Jillian says

♥

Jon(athan) Nakapalau says

So sad that we lost him so soon. I think he would have produced many important songs and poems if he had had the time.

Gina says

I just found this 1970 edition at a thrift store for a buck. It has the day-glo green pages and some tripper's handwritten notes inside. I read this years ago and it's just as silly as I remember. He self-published this, obviously. So cocky he thought he didn't need an editor.

It's dated yet I think it's still modern for each generation.

I'm a fan--but as poetry it works much better with that badass Ray Manzarek Hammond in the back. Here's one of Jim's stand-alone lyrics and is as true today as in '68: (picture this: This one is on a lime green page with some illiterate scribbles from some 70's stoner kid.)

The soft parade has now begun
on Sunset
Cars come thundering down
the canyon.
Now is the time & the place.
The cars come rumbling.
"You got a cool machine."
These engine beasts
muttering their soft
talk. A delight
at night
to hear their quiet voices
again
after 2 years.

Now the soft parade
has soon begun.
Cool pools
from a tired land
sink now
in the peace of evening.

Tony Funches says

I'm Highly Biased; as his employee & friend, I nevertheless found the work to be Fascinatingly Intelligent, & VERY Well Written.

[Retrospective Observation: Fittingly, the LONGER the interval of TIME, the more his insights become relevant & reflective of the forecast reality WE HAVE BECOME ... nevermind Ed Cayce & "Noster Great-Dame-Us" ... Jimbo WAS (X: The Man with the X-Ray Eyes) the tragic incarnation of the discarded & uncredited (upon Bradbury's insistence) short story for a pulp Sci-Fi mag ... later made a film w/ Ray Milland ...

Omnipotent Dystopian Now says

Oh, this is a tough one to review. At times I felt I needed to be on LSD or Mescaline to really feel what big Jim was trying to show me. Some of the content struck me as pretty lame. But... there are just a few lines in here that really touched me; they are just so profound, inspiring even. I'm glad I read this.

Joseph says

I first bought a copy of this book in 1982 and still had pages marked with cut up strips of post-it notes. I went

looking for this book the other day and I could not find it anywhere. It was weird that a book that I carried around the military in with several moves suddenly was gone. I ordered another copy and re-read it for the first time in several years. Perhaps knowing more about poetry than I did then might change what I thought about this book.

The Lords I read with new interest. The themes are easily recognizable. There is the city and its grittiness. Different rings of death, the city create different vices. There is sophisticated disease in the outer rings of the suburbs and the hard and unkind vices of the inner city. The thoughts of sex being the center ring of death makes sense in the most biological and evolutionary sense of our existence.

The main theme is the camera and cinema. The camera manages to catch the perfect form of the object or subject while the eye is imperfect. The must rely on the brain to save the image, and the brain remembers things as we want to see them rather than they actually existed. What we see is as the prisoners in Plato's Cave Allegory see. The camera captures the true form and keeps it. Instead of Plato's Cave, Morrison uses alchemy. Alchemy is not the father of chemistry he insists, but the search for pureness and the true nature of things. It is an interesting analogy that seems to capture the mysticism Morrison enjoyed.

The New Creatures is dedicated to Pamela Susan Courson, Morrison's partner and common-law wife. It starts as a tribute and devolves to primitive man and finally to animals. The themes are not as obvious, but the work is more poetic in its form and style.

This is an interesting collection in several ways. The poems are not titles and use the pages to keep them separate. Poems that are longer use Roman numerals at the start of the verse to let the reader know the poem is a continuation. It is not always obvious. This is perhaps the first collection of poetry, outside of independent presses, that has no introduction or biography of the author. The back cover simply states:

Jim Morrison was the lead singer, composer, and lyricist for the Doors until his death in 1971.

A nice collection, if not a bit eccentric. Perhaps it is a bit dated when referring to cinema and photography in this age of photoshop and CGI movies. Morrison did have a degree from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and that did have an influence on his work.

Matthew W says

"The Lords" features some interesting thoughts by Jim Morrison on the art of cinema. "The New Creatures" is far less interesting.

This is a fairly quick read and can easily be finished within one sitting.
