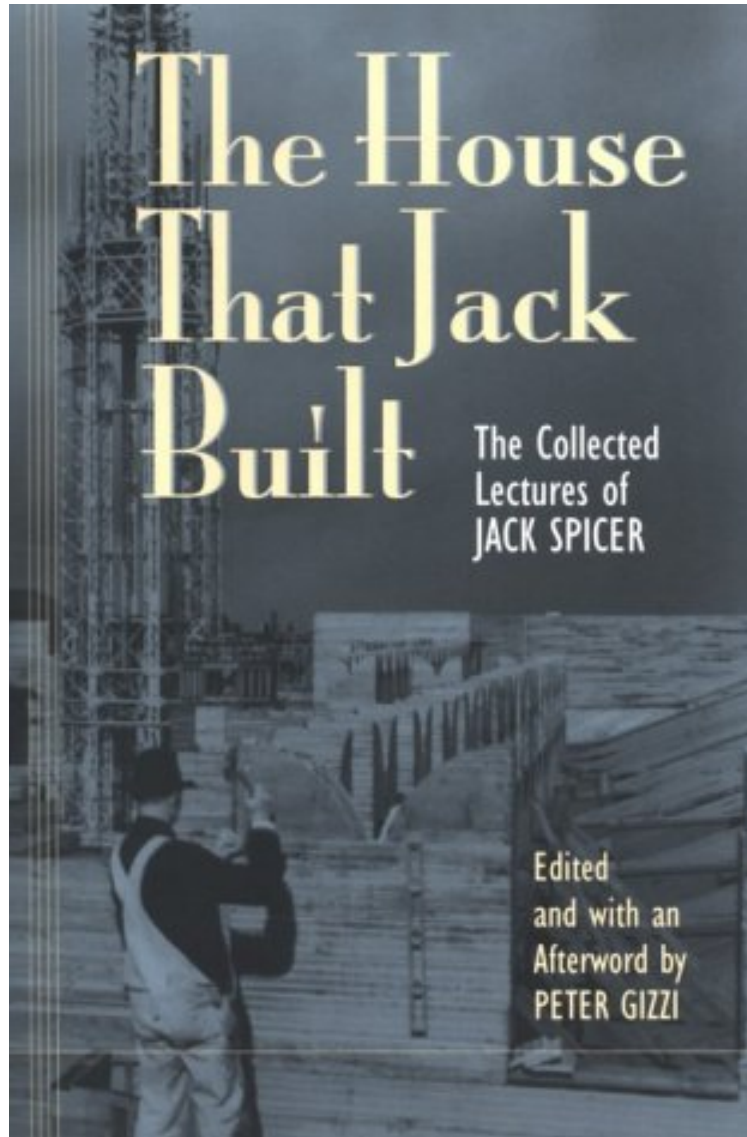


(Download pdf) The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer

## The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer

*Jack Spicer*

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**Jack Spicer : The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The House That Jack Built: The Collected Lectures of Jack Spicer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Visiting Jack's HouseBy Mark StatmanThese lectures catch Spicer at his brilliant, thrilling quirkiest. For fans of this marvelous poet. Others might find it a little odd at times.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Dynamics of Dictation and The Love of the GameBy J. Barron MeetzeThe House

That Jack Built is a must have for any serious poet or reader of poetry and poetics. Spicer's lectures on dictation, the serial poem, and the practice of reading lay a foundation for the art of writing poetry that is without default. His ideas are instrumental in poetry's process. Peter Gizzi's afterword enlivens the spirit of Spicer's practice and makes it available to the reader. Exhibiting a close relationship with Spicer's work and method, Gizzi both completes and opens the material discussed in the lectures. A stellar accomplishment. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. the house that jack built By M. Maxon A must for anyone interested in 1 of the 3 greatest poets [writing in english] circa 1950 to present. Gizzi's essay is illuminating and steers clear of obfuscating what Spicer meant by "dictation" and the "outside".

The House That Jack Built collects for the first time the four historic talks given by controversial poet Jack Spicer just before his early death in 1965. These lively and provocative lectures function as a gloss to Spicer's own poetry, a general discourse on poetics, and a cautionary handbook for young poets. This long-awaited document of Spicer's unorthodox poetic vision, what Robin Blaser has called "the practice of outside," is an authoritative edition of an underground classic. Peter Gizzi's afterword elucidates some of the fundamental issues of Spicer's poetry and lectures, including the concept of poetic dictation, which Spicer renovates with vocabularies of popular culture: radio, Martians, and baseball; his use of the California landscape as a backdrop for his poems; and his visual imagination in relation to the aesthetics of west-coast funk assemblage. This book delivers a firsthand account of the contrary and turbulent poetics that define Spicer's ongoing contribution to an international avant-garde.

Spicer is an intriguing and ultimately crucial figure in the history of postwar American poetry. A monastic and (in some ways) abstract poet, he was also extremely funny, harshly serious, absurd when his drive for transcendence required it. Yet in many places his poetry anticipates cultural studies. His lectures on poetry are some of the best from the postwar era. Peter Gizzi's handling does them full justice: he makes the liveliness of the interchange clear and presents Spicer's knottedness helpfully without explaining the difficulties away. (Bob Perelman) Here at last we have the poet Jack Spicer's legendary Vancouver and Berkeley lectures given during the turbulent 1960s, now lovingly and meticulously edited (one might say illuminated) by the poet Peter Gizzi. One may quarrel with many of Spicer's often provocative opinions but there is an urgency here, a life-force. These lectures, along with Gizzi's afterword, provide a vital articulation of the poet's profound and necessary calling. (Susan Howe) These 'lectures' are unbounded maps of Spicer's experience in his exploratory poetic practice that surprised even himself, as it does us, inside and outside the collapse of language into its materiality, neither transparent nor ideal in political, sacred, or poetic terms. Peter Gizzi's presentation is a tour de force. His 'afterword' offers the most important consideration to date of the genius of Spicer's work and of its dignity in our hearts and minds. (Robin Blaser) From the Publisher 6 x 9 trim. LC 97-44231 About the Author PETER GIZZI is the author of the poetry collections *Artificial Heart* (1997) and *Periplum* (1992), and he is the recipient of a Lavan Younger Poets Award from the Academy of American Poets. He is Assistant Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at the University of California, Santa Cruz