



## Taliban Beach Party

By Eric Howard



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**Taliban Beach Party** By Eric Howard

Eric Howard's debut poetry collection reveals the secrets that bind office work to war, Gidget to the damned, the Bible to popular song, mythology to fact, and Los Angeles to Ovid. On a bicycle ride through heavy traffic, it versifies the last days of a failed pimp, gives a tarot reading to warplanes, and deciphers the hieroglyphics of lost empire.

**Eric Howard** is an LA-based poet and editor. His work has appeared in the *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Caveat Lector*, *Conduit*, *Gulf Stream Magazine*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Plainsong*, *The Sun*, and in the anthology *Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond*.



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## Taliban Beach Party By Eric Howard Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*Taliban Beach Party* kicks Moon Doggie's ass and shoots the metropolitan tube alternative. Your TV is on fire, planes fly into the fiber optics, and madmen are delivered into the poet's hand, where justice unfolds across the page and Cassandra has your rainbow in her hair. This book is a shindig where the wise office geek gets his Gidget and inherits the Selectric Olympus of a forty-hour workweek, singing this is how it ends, this is how it begins."

&#8212;**S. A. Griffin**

"As adept working with the sonnet and sestina as with loose-fitting lines, Howard produces poems of great immediacy that stir with emotional depth."

&#8212;**David Trinidad**

"In this wry portrait of contemporary southern California, we read of ordinary life smashed up against the window of lives outrageously lived and risked. *Taliban Beach Party* guides us through a gallery of characters such as Moira, the sex club's ticket-taker; the surfer god Cupid; and Bacchus of the office. Howard's various formal strategies liberate these figures from the margins and obscurities and give them feet with which to walk, voices with which to sing, and bodies with which to bang about and love."

&#8212;**Ed Skoog**

"Eric Howard is a mixmaster of language, spinning mashups of history, songs, biblical references, and allusions filtered through an outsider's view of the world. Howard gives voice to those whose dreams have not yet come true, including Daddy Moses, Office Venus, the drummer from Waxie Snatch, as well as the men who drop the bombs. Although many of Howard's poems make us laugh, they continue to detonate long after we have read them."

&#8212;**Terry Wolverton**

#### About the Author

California-born poet Eric Howard has spent most of his life in Los Angeles. After receiving a degree in English at Pomona College, Eric worked as a substitute teacher while living in an illegally converted basement apartment in the neighborhood of Silver Lake. There, he wrote *Sinner*.

He later used his retirement money to buy a house and be the live-in landlord of a bunch of misfits. This included taking part in pranks and art projects put on by the Los Angeles Cacophony Society.

He also obtained a master's degree in English from California State University Los Angeles, studying formal poetry with Henri Coulette. This allowed him to bring his punk sensibility to verse. He is a frequent reader around Southern California, including at the Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center. For almost two decades, he has worked as a magazine editor, which has informed his poetry about office life.

His book, Taliban Beach Party, addresses 9/11 and its aftermath in the context of Los Angeles history, beginning with satire but concluding with prophecy. The title poem describes a Cacophony event that took place at Dockweiler Beach in October 2001.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Karen Chan:**

This Taliban Beach Party is great guide for you because the content which is full of information for you who always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it info accurately using great coordinate word or we can state no rambling sentences included. So if you are read this hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides straight forward sentences but hard core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Taliban Beach Party in your hand like getting the world in your arm, facts in it is not ridiculous 1. We can say that no reserve that offer you world in ten or fifteen tiny right but this book already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. active do you still doubt this?

#### **Brenda Taylor:**

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#### **Irma Kellner:**

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