The Wild Hunt Divinations: A Grimoire is a stunning second collection from National Poetry Series winner, Trevor Ketner. Comprised of 154 sonnets, each anagrammed line-by-line from Shakespeare’s sonnets, the book refracts these lines through the thematic lens of transness, queer desire, kink, and British paganism. Relentless, excessive, wild, and tender, The Wild Hunt Divinations: A Grimoire sets itself to chanting from beginning to end.

Trevor Ketner is the author of [WHITE], a winner of the National Poetry Series. They are also the author of Major Arcana: Minneapolis, winner of the Burnside Review award. They have been published in The Brooklyn Rail, New England Review, Lambda Literary, and elsewhere. A 2020 Lambda Literary Fellow, they have been a Poets House Emerging Poets Fellow, Emerge-Surface-Be Fellow for The Poetry Project, and a Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts Fellow.

Front cover illustration
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The Wild Hunt Divinations
Trevor Ketner

THE WILD HUNT

[Wesleyan Poetry]
DIVINATIONS

a grimoire

Wesleyan University Press · Middletown, Connecticut
The Sonnets are different from *Leaves of Grass* in that their popularization, never mind their popularization as homosexual documents, did not occur until centuries had detached them from their original social, erotic, and narrative contexts. The tradition of the Sonnets is the tradition of reading them plucked from history and, indeed, from factual grounding.

Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick,

“Swan in Love: The Example of Shakespeare’s Sonnets”

Deliberate breaking and shrinking both render objects unusable and therefore serve to remove them from the world of the mundane, thus symbolically “killing” them (much as happens with an animal or human sacrifice). The objects are thus transformed in order to enable their reception by the gods.

Miranda Aldhouse-Green,

*Sacred Britannia: The Gods and Rituals of Roman Britain*

What strong neck, what bright eye. What menagerie we are. What we’ve made ourselves.

Donika Kelly,

“Love Poem: Chimera,” in *Bestiary*
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to see they shimmer, hiding her / ram rib
tits—heterocountry hag / bitchwood tune bent
weightless—us: fun filth / flat amethyst battlefields—
i am manic, naked, answerable—feign hue
(too yellow cyst / housefly thefts)—tree heft
warms heart—wrathful thorn neons to dot the
god or ash—tin daughter, lend any ply
bow; bend it to hunt—(hit)—new, synthetic ruin—
(sung) a drinking stag wreathed in tender calm—
brittle pewter, holy stone, i gold shut
and throw these teeth—a duet—gravel—boyed.

[When forty winters shall besiege thy brow]
gowns web (herb hysteria)—let’s thin flowery
then—gaudy bicep—insistent herd—leaf dyed
to holy doorway—hunt syrups—doze—given
that i swallow debt, let me whorl—feed lard
/ ale / ill breath—they get eye winks—husband,
of thudhurt, eyeray, saltwar—sheets yell,
tan—nude hyphen—i knot woe; sinewy, it sees
fingernails (limp waters, a hand sea), leather sets,
he-messes—hewed out virus—debauchery: try a mop
or a match—i hot—i lucid—i wonderflush—stiffens:
exoskeleton / cum—my cuddly human mass—la,
sings a boyish brute in his coven—cut—yep,
hood him—we want a wren duet, to be shelter—
a cold thud (trans sob / melt)—oh welt / honeyed wife.
[Look in thy glass and tell the face thou viewest,]

synthetic floodgate: elk howl—unleash vase / tit
(oh art)—to witness that macho hem i ruffled one—
sewn, i warp, woof, hunt, (re)forest—shine, oh, tree,
lush in mothered mood / trowel’s glut—see south ebb:
swish of brood, rare ewe whine, farmhouses—
ghostly fish head—daily i start / unbend—
white floweriness (blob)—moth / hood /
footsy—the silver of slit (top pose)—
hetero man he-thirst—stags’ holy sundeath—
lovably lip them-holes, reap arc flicker—
i hound—oh i set to hug hole’s fearless thaw—gown
(foreskin), let me get dishonest: i ply width,
i mouth orb, i meet bone—verb led tuft
inside—i heat—a sweetening middle height.

[Unthrifty loveliness, why dost thou spend]

fleshy stud / nip void—holy hurts went stone,
lacy, petty—they bang—you flesh us
—(stun)—another ghost bed—(sung)—i vent / bled quiet—
able transfer / kindness gene / hoofed heart—
sub gushes a hydra / a bone note duet—tug it how
i have—teethe, beg, volunteer—i gut songs so
they sour—lush furs, sir, sewed up—to to
(a soft stammer, it nags us)—coven lets you
leaf fern—froth, filth, caving; say it—who
wove the ode; testify—soft chests, fully heed
teeth—echo a whole glen—neon hewn at burst:
sit / watch nova—ache at a deep cut—ate bull /
thumbed amethyst hunt bud—you bite sweet /
lush, witches—i doe, hex, butter, cove.
[Those hours that with gentle work did frame]
kneed the ghost softer (i hurt)—draw with loam—
the reedy gazelle wove her vow—they yelled /
ate me—shy, i try valley, wept saltthorn—
hard wet chiffon / latex, a lacy hurt—hind,
in (re)forming i elm—severs meat: rots—nude
case for hedonism: deer in hunt—hit to wound
(he vow)—statuesque delinquents shred fog—a clay tip—
a strawberry—head (eyebrow seed)—even nouns
tire—metal tit / sin helmet—no furled snows—
no sprawled frills—a lisp—a questioning—
eyeteeeth wet by a sweatier ebb—cuff turf:
name it marrowbone, cairn, wet thorns—
mot otter (wine)—i fold twilights: dewy hush / belt hurt
hues—seers slit / etch bi violetswell—he wants bitter use.

[Then let not winter’s ragged hand deface]
i tang / tend gelded ache—trees thorn / fawn
home—test nihilist deer—rude blue myth /
amateur ass movie (peels lace hem)—stoke our wet
butterfly tissue—lithe, i beer / lard—a week’s
fortunes (duds)—hosiery—taut nib—
peach pit whiplash—that lilyhag note—one wish:
to be feathers—dons hot fatherly tether—
form shinbone into petite pear tree—
in here, amethyst / a prophet rite (few hunt salt)—
i feint / fume—i set tender—there in the fog
hoofspells (thud, thud, thud), a coat widened—throat
thieving oval nips—i leg eternity—
i mold a funereal tit / frothblush crowfoot—
thin doe, i breech dawn—queer mass knots the atom.
[Lo, in the orient when the gracious light]

oh, i gush it wet—oh enthralling erection
finished in cubly hug—desperate ash rune
—he-hag mishap / woodgrain night—steep to
hymn wrists—gloved kiss—ice—oh, jar tea,
spill—nymph deactivated he—hebull vinehang—
rib segment (roughed in)—a moss-tinged hilly
lull—oystered sky soot—ah—I omit tear—lab
(gold)—girls (indigo) eat inept men / hang
a sign: we froth butch carmyth—hi, worm—hi, wept—
heartbreak, feed me—eel-elegy of he-hilt
/ ewe-hoof—trees eat deus—try coven or dune:
a twin foothold—star—hemlock—any arrow—
i thigh stony, noon (tenuously)—hot fog—
lashes to lounge / out-do—to ink sun’s end.

[Music to hear, why hear’st thou music sadly?]

lay hum or hue—domesticity casts raw hush—
we try joint / joyless stones, whitewashed twig,
toy twitch—clove thaws the hour—i goldvest—unhealthy,
i set ulcer / intense rose wreath—naïve he-poly—
fecund fount / cold deli—nowhere rusts to
here—unbidden, it is a monday—roof fern /
housewife honeydew—etch clot (oddest hunt) by
hustling it—burns hart teeth—a shapeless son dot (wideness) / woman-son—unhook hart—get herb tart
in the mouth—a dry bar rag (suck scene)—i lie /
i lie more (nymphs branch)—i’d gander pelt / dash
(a long, neon one)—i pond, so i heat (swelling)—
hygiene: no glob seen, no peach mess (swigs semen)—
lush net: girl(ish) tit photo—venison gone sweet.
[Is it for fear to wet a widow’s eye]

woof, await, destroy—i wife trees—
i salt / flesh tune (fish teem)—to sing cunt / holy
oath, i sea, i dust (lathes hiss hopeful)—
wife all white milkweed / tall ash—i wore sleek /
wildwild (howl twins)—yellow taper—the bed
has teeth—neon thudbolt—i froth foam heft—
i pile—needlework waver—why empty wave /
eyelash archery’s hush pins—bends mind in bed
(dawn hunt)—told worship: oh, nettle; oh, fat rind—
water(shifted)color—filth splits (blush)—joy set in
bath habit / a nude want—end hurt, sweetly so—
top’s honey tea—deerskins (sutured)—stud
-thirst—wooden moth / violet boar—ass (tons)—
macho cumthrust—us: mist, flesh omen, a dim shore.

[For shame deny that thou bear’st love to any,]

verb so a rhymed hunt—a honey tool / fat taste
of toy—oh, welt (shiverpond)—trans fur—
(any loud boot) that hurt—finger wove flit (am
in them)—love note to unvast us both—i’d test
heat: piss hours to dust / us-weather (odors form)—
ghostly knot / stitch—i turn a peach(stone)—soft tits
(unhooks to see)—eat a fruit out, rig-beaten—
rode hitachi (flushed)—i brew hysteric hope /
honey cage—candy a moth—am hung / tight (myth)—hit
hole / oval den (feather, ball, straightened leg)—
i bend, sing, suck a seed—(sore) i can’t—harpy,
hold; otter, rest—okay—heavens drift—a pelt/
foam skeleton for them—heave or feel
it—a bull, teeth, ivythorn, an eye—i them—i salt.
[As fast as thou shalt wane so fast thou growest—]

a sun shaft wets to lust—woofers ashoath a stag
photo—winter hunt: hi (an echo off)—at rest, i’d them
in frothy ballgown—boysect so wet—a hot (hushed) thud—
holy unwomanly hair tuft / scent—covehurt / smooth teeth—
a belt yearn (aroused, divine)—sinews chime
(low signal / fatty cud decoy)—i hold heat
/ odd mate: he howls; i fluster (dim silence / ease)—
aroma cults (they hoard away dew, red woe kernel,
a thousand warm moonteeth)—tether her so—loft
a shard—sees hairy deer pull ferns, burn earth—
more bookshelves: how we ghosted death—men
hold bows (tiny hecrush)—i hunt gush—i bounce out hot fits—
leather seams bend / rye / froth—arched net heave—
spit into the stud mouth—hold (porn)—lace yet rot.

[When I do count the clock that tells the time,]

cute hill met chest (i held wheat / cotton knot)—
beaus and heavies—hunk (destroyed)—hinting
them—inhabit two poles (levered hip)—
dull screw (low drive)—inhale is saltbreath—
i see sweeter valleys—eat fob / horn / fern—
we froth dads (oh, they drip chains)—retch me
/ edge me—sun drums vale—i’d sing ear shrapnel
to brew tits—we hind / heron / bear—bed a rib thinly—
i they—i dyke, too—me: banquet of haunts—
am themgamut / soot to thaw gut—on fetishes:
see me devastate—looks unwind chest as fire / bees—
hetero ass is (yawns)—got sad / feathered—
fine neck edge candying a smitten stomach—hasten
he-hew (he knives the vertebra [ache teem])—a sob den.
[O, that you were yourself, but love you are]

everywhere you auto to boy—a foul luster,
a silvery green hour (no fur to honey)—you sell
a promiscuous gay pelt—rend sight, a hind, one
moonseed—saw tiny beast leg over me—rut: echo
hunt—a toe lushes—holy boyish thaw / a lucid doe—
edenhoney / tin moon in tidewater—fur
(grayness)—fractured leaf / eye—i foul oases /
worry the forest—use swishy wound—use me (beau-role)—
sea, cutoffs, wood hysteria: all a hole—
hold dry, human hour with phonic bushing
(drag gown testament)—satisfy us, history /
carnal algebra—herd of otters and need—
bounty found: homo vein, true rye stalk, now
you—yes, stone (oh, rust), a foal, a hydra.

[Not from the stars do I my judgment pluck,]

form: groped junk, mold taint, smut scythe—
noisemaker / vanity hymn—host date
(dull cub; foot overkill)—gotten too
grotesque / playful (shies so soon)—a draft / a
neon flutter cult—bone resin air motif—
i renounce it (hair, din, hand)—night tops dawn
(lilac flag)—i whip (it sews sorely)—north
bent / hidden—captivity (in / off earth)—
field me—work tight buds, rye omen, vine—eye
scam (trash tan trend)—hand resuscitation /
herb death (shatter)—vanity: total gush / lure
of wrist, mouth, tuft—do sore nerve cloth softly—
poetic holing fees—retro shit—to sea
(do stand by / taste)—i am houndsteady, huntred.
[When I consider every thing that grows]

gathering thorn, sew he snowy—vice: dirt
/ nestcomfort—paint bound hill (let me tie),
bright teeth, stones—hunts ash to weepgush—taught
echo to lace—we rent unfit shrines—men crest men
(hip, harp, seacalm)—we cave-in (nest, entire nest)—
tender feed (he-squelch)—envy beaks / mesh / decay—
red vultures eat age—if i hunt, i hatch pantyhose—
meat shadow (our fatty reverb)—i tore name
to fit (hatchet)—stone, icy stone—scan ninth
sun (oh boyfemurs)—ghost yet rot, i mystic / i he (safety died)—wheat me, blue weather twitch—
unaesthetic orgy (tough oily thud; no ado)—fly
me to the roof—raw, awful vinyl—i, an idol,
foam you new—untie a hare (forgets sky).

[But wherefore do not you a mightier way]

a wood whim / fur ruby—eyeteeth: a rooting—
you, wetter land marks it by moon at hip—
fairy, not furry—deify doe lunacy so
she embers—braid my he-horns—my welt a remnant—
sunday top hunt—oh we spay hot—no proof
needed—snug asymmetry—a tannin ad (wine, obviously)—i hew fowl’s whirl / virtuous rut—drag
(in helmet; horror)—cute unpunk—i cite fat day
to eat fire—lush hole / a fir tip—holiness fled
to limp, runic nipple / mystic hip—he hews
wood (water ruin, water rind)—thin, fair horn—
inky sea full of no—use eye in memory cave
(a sly toil)—fur’s wet, silver elegy—you speak of
bewilderments—you work lust / ivy land—you swan.