At eight years old, **A.W. Strouse** was so titillated by the Old Testament that he built a sacrificial altar on his parents’ front lawn. He prayed that God would fill him with the Word, but no divine inspiration was forthcoming. Instead, Strouse’s earthly father spanked him heartily for having killed the grass. Ever since, Strouse has been attempting to create a kind of faggy, Christian mysticism through his practice as a poet and through his work as a medievalist. He believes that grace isn’t possible without one’s first having gone through hell, so he celebrates the campy and the dimwitted as modes of apophatic spirituality. He is the author of *Retractions and Revelations* (Jerk Poet, 2014) and *Thebes* (Jerkpoet, 2015), and he co-operates the Ferro Strouse Gallery. He holds a B.A. from The New School and an M.A. in Medieval Studies from Fordham University. He lives in Brooklyn and teaches medieval poetry at the City University of New York, where he is writing his doctoral dissertation on literary theories of the foreskin.
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