



ALL THIS DIVIDE

JORY MICKELSON

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So dynamic, supple, and keenly attentive to the natural world, Jory Mickelson's *All This Divide* allows the reader to contemplate our teeming days, our shared treasure house of planetary paradoxes: time coupled with alluring Nature as mighty destroyers and clarifiers ("what if the lake / was a century instead?"); propulsive history as instilling primer and stubborn obstacle. In this memorable, compelling book Mickelson meditates on the annals and inspiring beauty of The American West and Southwest, the demesne as a vital realm of open spaces, heave-ho greed, and artful dreaming—all the while sustaining a poetry of adept music and rousing imagery, of daily reverence, sweeping empathy, and clear-eyed investigation.

—Cyrus Cassells, 2021 Texas Poet Laureate

"The hard line of horizon draws the eye, always forward," writes Jory Mickelson as they guide us in this richly-drawn pastoral of the American West. Like Whitman, Mickelson celebrates the natural world in great detail both in its landscapes and in the people who inhabit them. *All This Divide* is a beautiful and sensual collection that takes as its purpose "...to make every image true, or at least true enough to last."

—C. Dale Young, author of *Prometeo*

Jory Mickelson's *All This Divide* circumambulates through time, excavating the violent layers of lineage: "Our story / one dark furrow." Mickelson's images are sharp and evocative, imaginative and felt: "The swallows— // they are combing the clouds' trailing hair" and "the knotted // hawk you are / pulling from my throat." Lyrical and sonically curious, these poems press their ears against the hearts of many storytellers. *All This Divide* asks us to consider our connectedness, one beetle and one stone at a time.

—Jane Wong, author of *Meet Me Tonight in Atlantic City*

Jory Mickelson's first book, *Wilderness//Kingdom*, was winner of a 2020 High Plains Book Award. Their third book, *Picturing* (End of the Line Press), is forthcoming in Canada. Other publications include *Court Green*, *Poetry Northwest*, *DIAGRAM*, *Jubilat*, *Terrain.org*, and *The Rumpus*. They are the recipient fellowships from the Lambda Literary Foundation, The Desert Rat Writers Residency, Dear Butte, and the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico. They live and write in the Pacific Northwest.