

PLAINSPEAK, WY

poems by Joanna Doxey

Residing in the brutally harsh winters of the Wyoming landscape, *Plainspeak, WY* is a rumination on self as wilderness. A book of juxtapositions, Doxey leans on the glacial with its inherited dirges and ostensible timelessness, contrasting stoic rock with lamenting body. Ultimately, it is a book of recollection, of broken hearts, and slowly changing landscapes.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joanna Doxey holds an MFA from Colorado State University. Her work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Yemassee*, *Matter Journal*, *CutBank Literary Journal*, *Tinderbox*, and *Denver Quarterly*. She lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

In Joanna Doxey's sparkling *Plainspeak, WY*, human and landscape fuse in the vast horizontal aspect of the western plains: "I want to lie flat on a flat land and border flat sky." Haunting, and acutely present, Doxey's poems pull at us like the ubiquitous Wyoming wind. Yet we are always a from and a to, a palimpsest of places and histories, present and absent, that fold space back into time. In this glacial manifold what doesn't globally inflect? Doxey's gift is to excavate the layering, to speak it plain and, in so doing, become a chosen place's witness: "Over the train tracks I have decided to be / from / here / or to be from and to be here."

Matthew Cooperman, author of *Spool*

Haunted by the various departures—ice, star, love, lover—these poems don't seek elegy's repair. Nor do they seek despair. Rather, as of the glacial erratic left bewilderingly in a meadow, this voice asks how it has found itself where it is, and how to speak of those forces now gone that are the only explanation of the mystery of being. But such is Doxey's sensitivity that even to say "ice," to say "snow," is heat enough to melt the remnant away. So it is worry turns back into care, and care opens us once again to those forces larger than the life that senses them: "I am done with faith but faith / is not done with me—".

Dan Beachy-Quick, author of *Circle's Apprentice*