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## *out takes/ glove box* by Maya Jewell Zeller

IN LANGUAGE STARTLING AND RADIANT, New American Poetry Prize-winner Maya Jewell Zeller's luminous new collection of poems meditates on the ever-human intersection of mothers, bodies, myth, and the natural world.

### Advance Praise for *out takes/ glove box*

"In Maya Jewell Zeller's enchanting *out takes/glove box*, the vehicles that carry us into and out of imaginative spaces abound, from a rusted car with its glove box full of dirt to a horse, 'hinged and winged/ like moths, its wet little eggs / still bobbing in their soft ponds.' Eggs abound, their mothers and their hatchlings. Indeed, the book could be said to be an 'oocyte opera' of ovarian orbits and eddies, each month offering up its 'vermilion funeral.' Zeller's surrealism is embodied and embedded in myth, fairy tale, the realm of the family, and the kingdom of the natural world. She calls her process, in one title, 'Re-Making the Personal Environmental Imagination.' The poems are oceanic, Edenic, their music, as she writes in a poem, 'vowelly,' but that lyric fluidity is crenelated by the notion and practice of 'out takes,' and the image of the 'glove box,' compound words snapped, like bones, in two. Images and ideas are honed and reiterated; they drop their beauty and defer to honesty. It is the kind of deft performance only a mermaid or a mother could pull off."

— DIANE SEUSS

Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *frank: sonnets*



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## MORE PRAISE FOR *out takes/ glove box*

"In *out takes/ glove box*, the speaker thinks beautifully through the shifting sands of mothering and tracks the body as it spirals through time. The language is dazzling. We're privy to a 'vermillion funeral' and learn an astonishing thing: '[t]he square root of whiskey is water.' Intimacy, here, includes the natural world. Animals and plants are tended to, torn into, and observed with an enviable capacity to render them mythic, tangible. These poems are spellbinding—read them out loud to experience their full power."

— EDUARDO CORRAL  
author of *Slow Lightning* and *Guillotine*

"Maya Jewell Zeller's poems bite back. In lush, lyrical lines, she describes the sensuality of the natural world and the blistering challenge-dream of motherhood and cishet marriage. The contrast between freedom found in nature, in friendship, in solitude; and the weight of social expectations unravels at the touch of a body (of work) so expansive it lends its blood to make new hearts. Throughout this collection, poems morph from roots to trunks to dandelions blown, softness scattered across the field: 'I want / to share this square of blue. Let's fuck / up the room.' These are courageous, captivating poems by a poet unafraid to tell the truth about her life."

— CAROL GUESS  
author of *Book of Non* and *Sleep Tight Satellite*

*Maya is available for readings, class visits, craft talks, Q & As, generative workshops, and other appearances virtually and in person:*

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**MAYA JEWELL ZELLER** is the author of *out takes/ glove box*, chosen by Eduardo Corral to receive the New American Poetry Prize; as well as the interdisciplinary collaboration (with visual artist Carrie DeBacker) *Alchemy For Cells & Other Beasts* (Entre Rios Books, 2017); the chapbook *Yesterday, the Bees* (Floating Bridge Press, 2015); and the poetry collection *Rust Fish* (Lost Horse Press, 2011). She is co-editor, with Sharma Shields, of the anthology *Evergreen: Grim Tales and Fables from the Gloomy Northwest* (Scablands Books, 2021). Maya's prose appears in *The Rumpus*, *Diagram*, *Brevity*, *Bellingham Review*, *Booth Journal*, and elsewhere. Recipient of a Promise Award from the Sustainable Arts Foundation as well as a Residency in the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, Maya has presented her work internationally at the University of Oxford and in Madrid at the Unamuno Author Festival. Currently, she is Associate Professor of English for Central Washington University, Affiliate Faculty for Western Colorado's low-residency MFA, and Poetry Editor for Scablands Books. Her WIPs are a memoir called "Raised by Ferns" (runner-up in the 2022 AWP Sue Silverman Prize for Creative Nonfiction), as well as the academic textbook, *Advanced Poetry: A Writer's Guide and Anthology* (forthcoming from Bloomsbury UK, January 2024).