

Written by Monica Fernandez on behalf of Marybeth Holleman, author of *tender gravity*

(I started with some light chit-chat and a greeting, as Scuppernong Books had done an event with Red Hen authors before).

I'm reaching out on behalf of one of Red Hen and Boreal Book's authors, Marybeth Holleman, who would love to read at Scuppernong Books sometime in early October, if possible!

Boreal Books is an imprint of Red Hen Press focusing on literature by writers of Alaska. It's edited by former Alaska Writer Laureate Peggy Shumaker, and has yielded some incredible, award-winning collections. The latest venture is Marybeth's *tender gravity*, an intense, moving, beautiful, heartbreaking, and hopeful collection of poetry exploring loss—the loss of beloved places, wild beings, even her younger brother—but also the solace that can be found beyond the grief and within the celebration of life and existence. I'm attaching a press release with more information about the book.

tender gravity explores, through poetry evocative of Mary Oliver and Walt Whitman, themes of ecology and climate change, loss and grief, and the profound connections between humans and nature. Topics of potential discussion, with a chosen local moderator, could explore any of the above themes, or an engaging and relatable topic: Poetry as antidote to eco-anxiety. Marybeth could speak about how the poems in *tender gravity* both confront the grim, often demoralizing realities of climate change and the state of our environment, but also reveal wonder, and even joy, and the magic within our world.

Marybeth is also in conversation with Southern Environmental Law Center, Wild South, and Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project about potentially co-sponsoring this event, creating a fantastic bridge between the eco-poetry of *tender gravity* and local organizations and their boots-on-the-ground efforts.

Marybeth has a history, connections, and family in Greensboro that can certainly bring an audience to this event.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns! *tender gravity* is officially released in August.

All best,

Monica Fernandez

Written by Brittany Ackerman, author of *The Perpetual Motion Machine*

Hello!

My name is Brittany Ackerman and I'm the winner of Red Hen Press's Nonfiction Award. I'm writing to inquire about doing a reading at your store. My book, *The Perpetual Motion Machine*, comes out November 20th, and I plan to start my book tour right away! I am local and live in Glendale, so I'm available for most days and times. My book is a collection of memoir, prose essays about my brother who is a recovering addict and also suffers from mental illness and behavioral issues. My collection navigates the more difficult times in my family's life where we had to make decisions on how to move forward and make meaning out of the tragedy.

As a Red Hen author, it would be quite easy for me to find pals to read with too, but I also really enjoy the format of reading and then being asked some questions by an interviewer. I have some writer friends that would be glad to fill that role as well.

I look forward to hearing from you, and thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Brittany Ackerman
brittanyackerman.com
561-235-9028

A brief synopsis: When my brother was in high school he attempted to build a perpetual motion machine, a machine that can do work indefinitely, to save the world. That machine was my brother's experiment; this book is mine. It is in the text where I dissect our relationship and try to understand myself. Writing down my experiences metamorphosizes them in an attempt to keep them close, to always be surrounded by the memories that I often feel so distant from. My research has been investigating photo albums, interviewing my brother and parents, finding out what I was like as a child. I knew there was a purpose, something bigger happening than I could fathom; an unstoppable urge, a movement, a force set in motion forever by writing down the words. What I have found is that there is always hope available and present in times of chaos, even perpetual chaos.

Book Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/291027591>