

Houston, Texas – September 6, 2019 – Press Release: Saint Julian Press is proud to announce a new book of poetry. *Horizon of the Dog Woman*, by author Rebecca Pelky, which will be published on January 15, 2020. *Horizon of the Dog Woman* powerfully explores the strength of women struggling to find acceptance in their bodies, societies, histories, and in Indigeneity. Built on both the personal and the persona, *Horizon* gives voice to the unvoiced, and, from the vast Great Lakes landscapes in which it is set, these speakers don't ask, but demand to be heard.



The poems of *Horizon of the Dog Woman* map out a dangerously beautiful terrain of an ancient American winter in the messiness of thaw. Rebecca Pelky's fierce and flawed speakers remind us that colonization and genocide do not only shape the natural landscape but also the landscape of the female body and voice. Despite violence and erasure, Pelky's characters stand tall and bite back, declaring, "I rebuilt myself//from the tongue/inward. Don't tell//me I didn't speak." This is a powerful debut collection, where we begin at the ending and end at the beginning.

~ Anne Barngrover

Author of *Brazen Creature* and *Yell Hound Blues*

Like the bodies of water of the Upper Peninsula that play a central role in Pelky's poetic imaginings, these poems ripple with a quiet intensity. Her work forms a project of remaking and reimagining, of giving voice to the voiceless—to women, Indigenous peoples, and to the land. Pelky navigates violence and erasure, at times interrogating what it means to survive as a woman and ways to push back against received knowledge. Pelky's collection speaks to the necessity of witness, to the need for a kind of attention that, if held long enough, becomes transformative magic.

~ Jake Young

Author of *American Oak*

Every word on the page has a sense of both inevitability and surprise that makes me pause to breathe in her lines—that is to say, her work is breathtaking in the physical, as well as the spiritual sense. Pelky spent thirteen years as a zookeeper, and she poetically transforms—or transfigures—her scientific training: her close observations of nature resemble extraordinary findings in a field notebook. She is witty, condensed, and a passionate, sometimes brutal, social critic, and *Horizon* is unrelentingly feminist. The book also exposes the historical fact that just as women's bodies have been violated and erased, so too have Indigenous people. While she unflinchingly portrays the fractures and bloody divisions of North America's past, her vision is healing and wholistic. Rebecca Pelky's poetry refutes narratives of erasure and replaces them with visibility, voice, and extraordinary beauty.

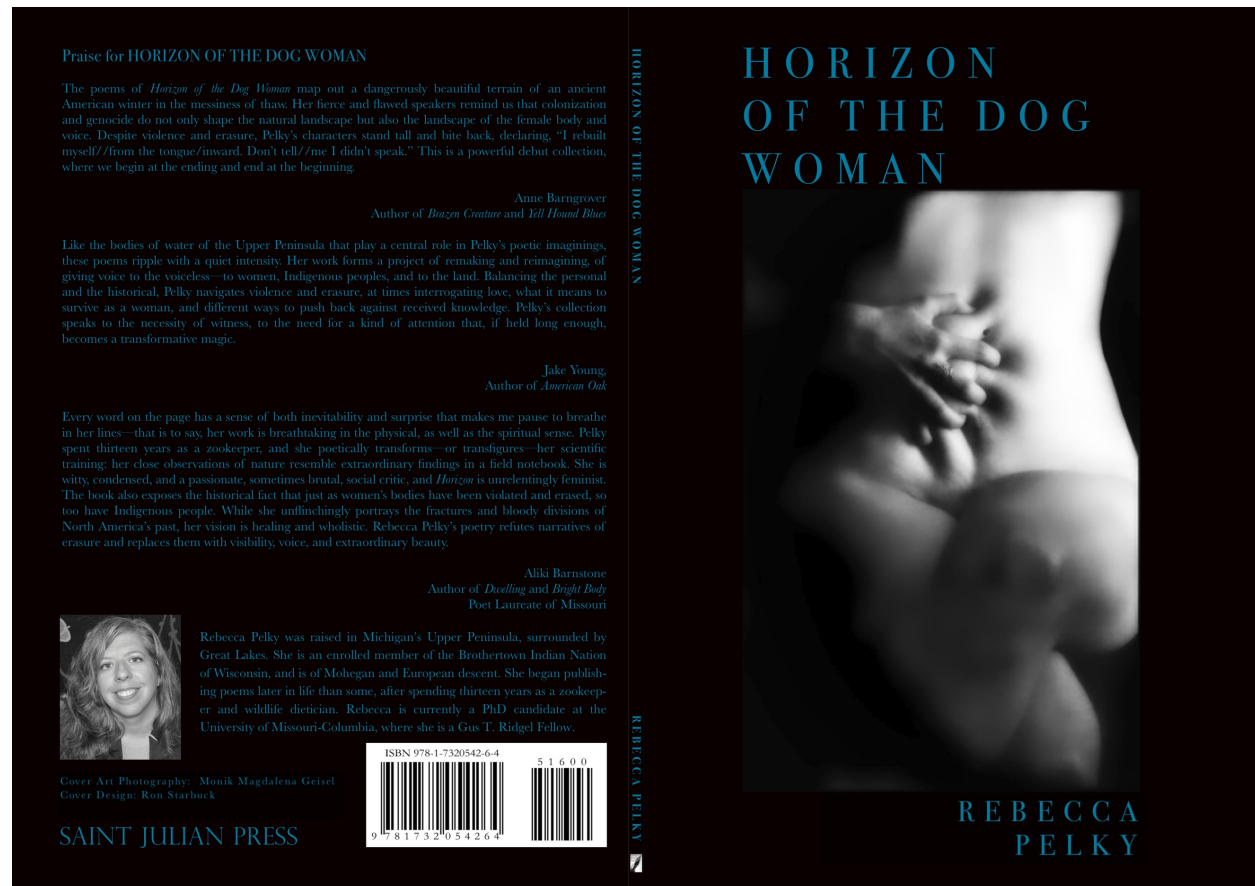
~ Alik Barnstone

Author of *Dwelling* and *Bright Body*
Poet Laureate of Missouri

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Rebecca Pelky was raised in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, surrounded by Great Lakes. She is an enrolled member of the Brothertown Indian Nation of Wisconsin, and is of Mohegan and European descent. She began publishing poems later in life than some, after spending thirteen years as a zookeeper and wildlife dietician. Rebecca is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she is a Gus T. Ridgel Fellow.



Praise for HORIZON OF THE DOG WOMAN

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Anne Barngrover
Author of *Brazen Creature and Tell Hoard Blues*

Like the bodies of water of the Upper Peninsula that play a central role in Pelky's poetic imaginings, these poems ripple with a quiet intensity. Her work forms a project of remaking and reimagining of giving voice to the voiceless—to women, Indigenous peoples, and to the land. Balancing the personal and the historical, Pelky navigates violence and erasure, at times interrogating love, what it means to survive as a woman, and different ways to push back against received knowledge. Pelky's collection speaks to the necessity of witness, to the need for a kind of attention that, if held long enough, becomes a transformative magic.

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 Ron Starbuck or Rebecca Pelky

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