



WINTER GREETINGS FROM THE **Ellen Meloy Fund** for Desert Writers

Wishing you, your family and friends health and comfort as we wind up this mind-boggling year. At the EMF, we're grateful for our homes, our communities, and good books.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the Ellen Meloy Fund has had a banner year when it comes to publications and writings by our past award winners. We're so happy to share news of three recent book publications very close to our hearts. Just in time for stuffing the stockings of the big readers in your life! The recent publications by EMF Award Winners Sarah Johnson (2013 winner) and Kendra Atleework (2016 Winner) were accompanied by the translation and printing of Ellen's *Anthopology of Turquoise* in Italy.

Also, in 2020 *This Desert Hides Nothing* – a collaborative effort combining Ellen's past writings and the photographs of Stephen Strom was published alongside the 2019 well received *Seasons* – a compilation of Ellen's past interviews with Utah Public Radio. Both of these outstanding titles were published by Torrey House Press.

We are so pleased to be able to share all this wonderful news with the EMF's friends and family of supporters without whose help over the year would have made the success of our collective vision to perpetuate Ellen's writings and memory not possible.

Happy Holidays!

– The Board of the Ellen Meloy Fund



Support the Ellen Meloy Fund in your Year-End Giving

Over the past 15 years, the Ellen Meloy Fund has worked on a shoestring budget, utilizing the dedicated time and talents of an all volunteer Board and friends. Your donation no matter how large or small is all part of the legacy we have together built during this time. Please continue to support us with a donation this year. A return envelope is provided for your convenience.

You can also contribute online by going to ellenmeloy.com/donate. Please consider joining our Sustainer's Circle by choosing 'Make this a monthly donation' on the website. Our small but growing group of Sustainers are critical to our long term sustainability.

[Donate Online](https://ellenmeloy.com/donate)

Donations can also be made online at ellenmeloy.com/donate

New Publications by EMF Award Winners

The Sirens of Mars: Searching for Life on Another World

by Sarah Stewart Johnson, Ph.D.

CROWN, JULY 2020

2013 EMF Award Winner



"...interweaves her own coming-of-age story as a planetary scientist with a vivid history of the exploration of Mars in this celebration of human curiosity, passion, and perseverance."

—Alan Lightman, author of *Einstein's Dreams*

Mars was once similar to Earth, but today there are no rivers, no lakes, no oceans. Coated in red dust, the terrain is bewilderingly empty. And yet multiple spacecraft are circling Mars, sweeping over Terra

Sabaea, Syrtis Major, the dunes of Elysium, and Mare Sirenum—on the brink, perhaps, of a staggering find, one that would inspire humankind as much as any discovery in the history of modern science.

Georgetown scientist Dr. Sarah Stewart Johnson tells the story of how she and other researchers have scoured Mars for signs of life, transforming the planet from a distant point of light into a world of its own. *The Sirens of Mars* offers an unlikely natural history of a place where no human has ever set foot, while providing a vivid portrait of our quest to defy our isolation in the cosmos.

"Lovely... Johnson's prose swirls with lyrical wonder, as varied and multihued as the apricot deserts, butterscotch skies and blue sunsets of Mars."

—Anthony Doerr, *The New York Times Book Review*

Learn more at johnsonbiosignatureslab.com

Miracle Country: A Memoir of a Family and a Landscape

by Kendra Atleework

ALGONQUIN BOOKS, JULY 2020

2016 EMF Award Winner

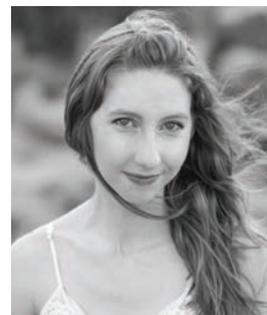
"I felt the thrill I once knew reading Annie Dillard for the first time." —Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *The House of Broken Angels*

Miracle Country tells the story of Kendra's home region in Eastern California, in the rain shadow of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Kendra's parents taught their children to thrive in this beautiful landscape, prone to wildfires, blizzards, and gale-force winds. After Kendra's mother died of a rare autoimmune disease when Kendra was sixteen, the Atleework family fell

apart. The once-beloved desert came to feel empty and hostile, as climate disaster intensified. After years of avoiding her troubled home, Kendra realized that she needed to come to terms with its past and present and move back for good. *Miracle Country* is a moving and unforgettable memoir of flight and return, emptiness and bounty, the realities of a harsh and changing climate, and the true meaning of home.

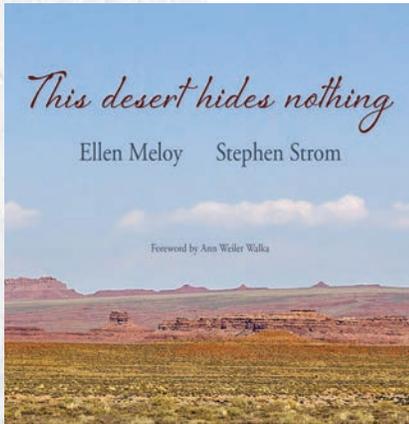
"Atleework's book joins the great American accounts of the West...moving from a beloved geography into a jeopardized future."

—Patricia Hampl, author of *The Art of the Wasted Day*



Follow Kendra at Atleework.com. She is available to visit book clubs virtually—email her at info@atleework.com.

New Ellen Meloy Books



More information is available at torreyhouse.org

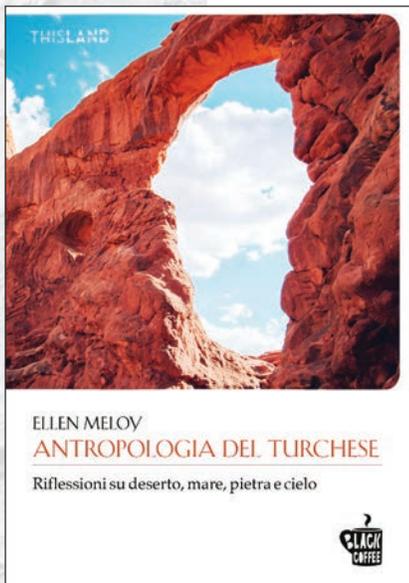
This Desert Hides Nothing

**Selections from the Work of Ellen Meloy
with Photographs by Stephen Strom**

Foreword by Bluff, UT poet Ann Walka, a friend of Ellen Meloy

We are thrilled with the arrival of a new title co-published by Back of Beyond Books and Torrey House Press. *This Desert Hides Nothing* features selections from the work of Ellen Meloy and photographs by Stephen Strom.

Ellen Meloy and photographer Stephen Strom met in the fall of 2004 and began work on a book of images and prose expressing their shared love of the desert. Two months later, Meloy died suddenly at her home in southern Utah. Over the years to follow, Strom called on Meloy's writing to put his new photographs to words. The collaboration seemed to deepen over time, and it comes to fruition in *This Desert Hides Nothing*.



More information is available at edizioniblackcoffee.it

Antropologia del Turchese

by Ellen Meloy, translated by Sara Reggiani

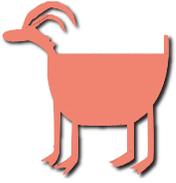
Dispatch by Grant Ditzler, Ellen's brother

How do you say sandstone in Italian? *Arenaria*. Edizioni Black Coffee, of Florence, has released *Antropologia del Turchese*, by Ellen Meloy, translated by Sara Reggiani.

This first translation of Ellen's work, *Antropologia del Turchese*, represents a delicious irony—that Ellen lived in Italy, studied in Florence and Perugia, and at one time spoke fluent Italian. More than 50 years later, Italian readers are now discovering her work.

When I learned about the translation, I happened to be sitting in a library in Pesaro, Sara Reggiani's home town. The story of our coincidences, our meeting, friendship and trip to Bluff, is told by her in English on the Black Coffee website. Sara once described herself to me as "drawn to aridity." She had been to the Colorado Plateau, and the Gobi Desert, and I could tell when we met that she was "incantata," under the spell of the desert.

Antropologia del Turchese has received positive reviews in the Italian press. It is striking how deeply engaged the reviewers have been with Ellen's ideas, her passion, her environmentalism, her wacky, sensuous language. Thanks to Sara's own skill and passion, Ellen's words flow—the images are strong, the humor is there, and the message is clear.



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The Ellen Meloy Fund for Desert Writers provides support to writers whose work reflects the spirit and passions embodied in Ellen's writing and her commitment to a deep map of place.



Supporting the Fund

The Ellen Meloy Fund is an all volunteer effort organized to seek out, recognize and support desert writers by providing a \$5000 annual award as well as intellectual support and public recognitions.

We exist on the donations of our supporters. You can contribute by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope or through our PayPal link at ellenmeloy.com. *Contributions are tax deductible.*

Stay in touch!

If you would like to stay up to date on the latest news from Ellen Meloy Fund throughout the year, find us on Facebook [@EllenMeloyFund](https://www.facebook.com/ellenmeloyfund) and sign up to receive our e-newsletter at ellenmeloy.com.

