



# Split the Crow

*Sarah Sousa*

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## **Split the Crow** Sarah Sousa

FREE VERSE EDITIONS, edited by JON THOMPSON | "Something magical happens in these pages-we are waked from forgetfulness and are pulled into a living history that revives us and spares us nothing. The reader demands: 'we want?/what is real, don't deny us' and Sousa does not disappoint. In exploring the narrative of Mary Rowlandson, *Split the Crow* employs lyric to stop time, draw it close, and inspect it on its own terms without being either pedantic or patronizing. Sousa bares essential truths of our young country; we have struggled all along defining ourselves by othering. In spite of this, *Split the Crow* shows all that is human is transitive. I had been dying to read this book until I read it; I did not know what I lacked until I was sated." -TJ JARRETT | "*Split the Crow* is rife with surprise, rich with inventive images from the natural world, and delicious with music. Weaving through centuries of Native American material culture, Sousa walks no straight lines. From 'Her Moods Caused Owls': 'Once there was a girl who spoke / garlands' and (four lines later) 'her fear caused gardens.' This brilliant, idiosyncratic book rides the wave of language and consciousness rather than narrative, to breathtaking effect. And this poet is not just smart, she's wise." - ELLEN DORE WATSON | "The poems of Sarah Sousa's *Split the Crow* employ archaeology as a means of giving voice not only to the land, but to long-gone peoples. We discover the objects that individuals were equipped with for their final journeys, as well as witnessing their tales. Sousa's work picks up where conventional history has left off, giving voice to urgent testimonies. 'The Lost People,' states, 'On the train coming east, / not knowing what else to do, boys sang / the death songs our warriors sang riding into battle,' just one of many instances where Native American accounts find a ready home in Sousa's poetry. *Split the Crow* is a collection of tremendous magnitude that calls upon the past as a way to reconsider our present moment." -MARY BIDDINGER | SARAH SOUSA'S poems have appeared in *The Massachusetts Review*, *Fugue*, *Passages North*, *Barn Owl Review*, and *Salt Hill Journal*, among others. Her first collection, *Church of Needles*, won the Red Mountain Prize (Red Mountain Press, 2014). She is the editor and transcriber of *The Diary of Esther Small;?1886*, holds an MFA from Bennington College, and lives in Western Massachusetts with her husband and two sons.

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