



New from  
Red Hen Press

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# *Ghost Apples*

POETRY BY

Katharine Coles

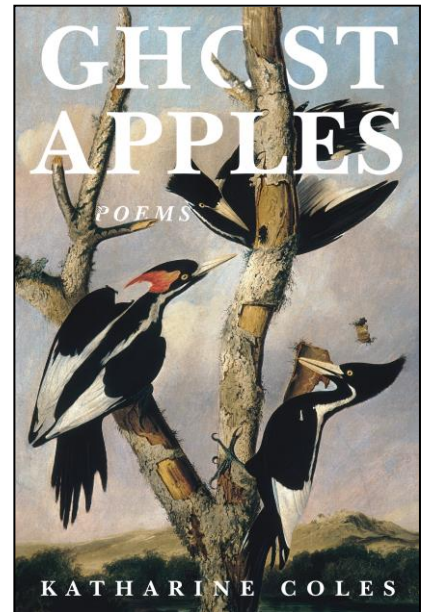
In her ninth collection of poems, *Ghost Apples*, Katharine Coles interrogates and celebrates her relationship with the natural world and the various creatures who inhabit it, and in doing so asks what it means to be human and mortal on a fragile planet.

From her own pet parrot, Henri, to the birds her husband attracts to their feeders, to the wildlife who live just outside—and regularly cross—her property on the wild edge of Salt Lake City, she uses her capacity for intense observation and meditation to think her way into other lives and possible shared futures, both good and bad.

## ADVANCE PRAISE

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Katharine Coles' eleven books include *Wayward*, poems from Red Hen Press; a memoir, *Look Both Ways*; and a collection of essays, *The Stranger I Become: on Walking, Looking, and Writing*. 2018-19 Poet-in-Residence at the Natural History Museum of Utah and the Salt Lake Public Library for the Poets House FIELD WORK program, she has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, and from the Guggenheim Foundation. She is a Distinguished Professor at the University of Utah.



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**FROM *GHOST APPLES***

**GHOST APPLES**

The ones we ate  
We shouldn't have

Yet. The ones we imagined  
Eating. The ones we left

Too long on the bough until  
The rain froze around them

And they slipped out  
The bottom, leaving behind

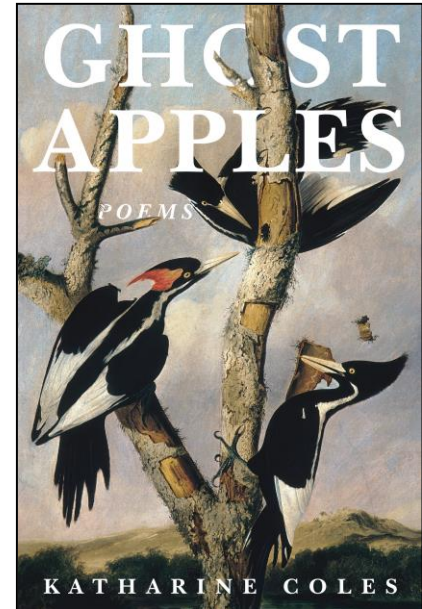
Perfect crystal shapes: present  
And absent, clear

Mysteries, bodies made  
Transparent vessels of the sun

And, in the sun, their own  
Soft robes vanishing light.

Like anyone, I'd rather go  
Around in my own skin. And yet

We don't. Once I bit  
An apple. It bit me back.



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