

Graywolf Press announces



**GHOSTS OF WYOMING
BY ALYSON HAGY**

Contact: Erin Kottke / 651-641-0077 / kottke@graywolfpress.org
250 Third Avenue North, Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55401 • www.graywolfpress.org

AN UNSENTIMENTAL VISION OF THE WEST, NEW AND OLD, COMES TO LIFE IN A GRITTY NEW COLLECTION OF STORIES BY THE AUTHOR OF SNOW, ASHES

“Hagy explores the lonely state of the Equality State, with its literally and figuratively haunted inhabitants. Hagy has an ear for the locals and a feel for the vast lonely landscape, capturing modern issues like small ranchers’ struggles with wolves and environmentalists, and the small details of late nights in pickups and the gradual erosion of Wyoming’s landscape.”

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“Alyson Hagy writes about the historic and contemporary ghosts of Wyoming as if she has lived there for two hundred years.... She inhabits each character completely, tells the hard and heartbreaking tales of their barely redeemed lives with compassion and clarity, in prose as lyric and arresting as the great state itself.”

—PAM HOUSTON

In *Ghosts of Wyoming*, Alyson Hagy explores the hardscrabble lives and terrain of America’s least-populous state. Beyond the tourist destinations of Jackson Hole and Yellowstone lies a less familiar and wilder frontier defined by the tension wrought by abundance and scarcity.

A young runaway with a big secret slips across the state border and steals a collie pup from the Meeker County fairgrounds. A chorus of trainmen details a day spent laying rail across the Wyoming Territory, while contemporary voices describe life in the oil and gas fields near Gillette. A traveling preacher is caught up in a deadly skirmish between cattle rustlers and ranchers on his way from Rawlins to the Indian reservation on the Popo Agie River. Locals and activists clash when a tourist makes an archaeological discovery near Hoodoo Mountain.

With spirited, lyrical prose, Hagy expertly weaves together Wyoming’s color pioneer and speculator history with the not-often-heard voices of petroleum workers, thrill-seeking rock climbers, and those left behind by the latest boom and bust.

“Sharp, mournful tales and dead-on yarns. Hagy knows Wyoming well, her stern weathers and defiant beauty and patient ruthlessness. She knows too how this land fashions and tests her ghosts, both living and long gone.”

—JOY WILLIAMS



ALYSON HAGY was raised on a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She is the author of three previous collections of short fiction and two novels, *Keeneland* and *Snow, Ashes*. She lives and teaches in Laramie, Wyoming.

FEBRUARY 2010, Fiction, 192 pages, 5 ½ x 8 ¼, Paperback Original (978-1-55597-548-7), \$15.00

MORE PRAISE FOR GHOSTS OF WYOMING:

“We’re in luck again out west. Here’s another first-rate storyteller. Alyson Hagy knows our lingo, our lands and people, our heartbreaks and glories, and our tragedies and sustaining myths, and how each runs through the others. Read and enjoy. Hope for more.”

—WILLIAM KITTREDGE

“Anyone reading *Ghosts [of Wyoming]* . . . will recognize, on every page, a woman and a writer who knows where stories lie and how to tell them. They’ll find a woman gifted with a preponderance of odd and unfamiliar phrases, with metaphors that wild your mind and make a foreign place familiar.”

—BETH KEPHART