

Melody S. Gee's

THE CONVERT'S HEART IS GOOD TO EAT

JUNE 28TH 2022

THESE VIVID, HARROWING POEMS MEET AT THE INTERSECTION OF
CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL IDENTITY, REVEALING A COMPLEX
UNDERSTANDING OF HOW BELIEF DEFINES US.

"Melody Gee's gorgeous poems offer both divine wounds and delicious consolations. At the intersections of the familial and the sacred, *The Convert's Heart is Good to Eat* reminds us that what is created is also consumed. Beautiful, sensory, and aching, this collection reminds us that not all hungers are mortal ones."

— Traci Brimhall, author of *Our Lady of the Ruins*

Melody S. Gee is the author of *The Dead in Daylight* (Cooper Dillon Books, 2016) and *Each Crumbling House* (Perugia Press, 2010), winner of the Perugia Press Prize. She is the recipient of Kundiman poetry and fiction fellowships, two Pushcart Prize nominations, and the Robert Watson Literary Prize. Her poems, essays, and reviews appear in *Commonweal Magazine*, *Blood Orange Review*, *Lantern Review*, and *The Rappahannock Review*. She is a freelance writer and editor living in St. Louis, Missouri with her husband and daughters.

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THE CONVERT DESIRES HER WAY INTO A FIRST PRAYER

Her mother's first lesson
was chew your wants and spit

the pulp, grow skinny feeding
everyone else your flesh.

A heart's cargo is sometimes oil,
sometimes crude. A spill can undo

the waterproof of any surface.
And still the diving birds must feed,

must point their beaks past the slick
that seals the cornea to eternal blur.

Does the Lord ask her what she wants
when he already knows its name?

Please reach out if you'd like
to schedule a reading and/or
Q&A with the author.