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## Poetry: Introduction

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### III. POETRY

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## **Introduction:**

We consider *The North Meridian Review* a journal of scholarship and culture, and I can imagine no better expression of this pairing than poetry.

Once, I attended a poetry reading by Lauren Haldeman. During the discussion following her surreal, spectral stanzas, the room asked about her poetry research process. Haldeman exploded my understanding of research when she described it potentially as so much more than books: research as sitting in a graveyard, reflecting on death and on your ancestors, for instance. Any time we revisit memories on purpose or by accident, record our observations, and then examine those field notes, the result can be a poem.

The poems in this collection do that; they therefore invite us all in/to all of the places we might practice conducting our own research: cruising country bike roads wide-ruled with bright berries and hazel stars, for example, or perusing unapologetic Circe's island trophy room stash. Littered along these scenes, you'll find many fires, phantoms, lies, broken shells, and good tacos; you'll stumble in and out of other people's homes and childhoods. These poems also ask that we reflect on our relationships—with our families, with our communities, and with ourselves. Race, gender, animal, bully, tourist, lover, relation, goddess, witness.

By evoking both research and reflection, they unite scholarship and culture. Uncork and binge.

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