



Kelsay Books announces the publication of
Summoning the Outlaws

By **Michael Jennings**



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About the Author...

Michael Jennings was born in the French Quarter of New Orleans and grew up in east Texas and the deserts of south-western Iran before attending the University of Pennsylvania as an undergraduate and Syracuse University as a graduate Fellow. He is the author of 10 collections of poetry, most recently *Crossings: A Record of Travel*, winner of the 2016 Central New York Book Award for Poetry, and *River Time*, winner of 2014 Wells College Chapbook Contest. He is also the 2017 winner of the Miller Audio Award for Poetry offered by The Missouri Review.

One of the poems in Michael Jennings' stunningly eloquent, elegiac *Summoning the Outlaws* begins, "Whatever it was, it happened here." The reader is caught up and then swept along, not only by the sheer poetry of the language, but by the precise evocative imagery—many of the poems are based on photographs—as well as the intensity and drama of these momentous events and memorable characters. Jesse James, Billy The Kid, Black Elk, Crazy Horse, Geronimo: all are present, restored to vibrant life in often heart-breaking detail. No one could read this book without being moved, nor come away from it without an enlarged sense of what it was like to live once upon a time in the real West.

- **Bruce Bennett**, author of ten books of poetry, including *Just Another Day in Just Our Town*, *Poems: New and Selected*, 2000-2016, and more than two dozen poetry chapbooks

In Michael Jennings' *Summoning the Outlaws* we are carried deep into the violent, bare bones vastness of a United States that continually belies its collective belief that Americans are a people bound together by "can do" materialism, irrepressible optimism, and a fit throwing "God" on their self-righteous side. Jennings' poetry pays homage to the ones who did not and do not fit into our country's childish self-delusions, the men, women, and children who have found themselves in the position of being outcasts, desperadoes, and outlaws of all varieties. This poet with the spirit of Crazy Horse makes a stand for the beaten down, betrayed, and brokenhearted. A beautifully rendered dreamscape of fierce poems that calls us to summon the outlaws in ourselves and make sure that in these current mad times we remain vividly, rebelliously, and mythically alive.

- **Susan Deer Cloud**, author of *Before Language*