

GOLD LINE PRESS // NEW RELEASE // SPRING 2022

## BOYER RICKEL *MORGAN (A LYRIC)*

### PRAISE:

For as much as we mourn *after* a loss, *Morgan (a Lyric)* is an elegy for a lover in the extended and slow acts of tenderness, pain, and joy that leads up to the eventual loss, specifically of the late poet Morgan Lucas Schuldt. Boyer Rickel has written one long breath, an inhale and exhale as an offering to his lover whose lungs were failing. In a collage of flaws, gaps, and moments of heightened awareness, time is both suspended, yet speeding forward at an ever ravaging pace. Nothing can prepare us for our lover's departure, witnessing their decline, the effervescence of each moment is exploded to sublime proportions. And yet the softness of touch, "inhaling as I kiss his neck," the tendrils of care, "why do you do this...why do you take care of me," is a testament to the brief yet bright angles of love that make a simple moment replete with endless joy. I treasure this book. I, too, mourn for Morgan though I never knew him. It makes me hold those near me closer.

—MARCELLO HERNANDEZ CASTILLO  
AUTHOR OF CHILDREN OF THE LAND

### ABOUT THE NEW TITLE:

*Morgan (a Lyric)* accumulates impressions of the complex emotional landscape of a relationship in which one of the lovers is facing early death through cystic fibrosis. Rather than a more traditional memoir that results in an epiphany, the memoir is fashioned from brief narrative episodes, patterned sentence collages, and notes on cognition and perception. Shifting repeatedly in time and location—from a hospital dialysis unit to sex in a parked car to a romantic writers' Baja retreat to an ICU following lung transplant—a portrait builds of a love lived under the intensifying pressure of mortality.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Boyer Rickel's previous publications include two book-length poetry collections, *remanence* (Parlor Press) and *arreboles* (Wesleyan), a memoir-in-essays, *Taboo* (Wisconsin), as well as three poetry chapbooks, *Tempo Rubato* (Green Linden Press), *Musick's Hand-maid* and *reliquary* (both from Seven Kitchens Press). In addition to poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Arizona Commission on the Arts, his lyric essays have recently received awards from *Prairie Schooner* and *Tupelo Quarterly*. He taught in the University of Arizona Creative Writing Program for twenty years.



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