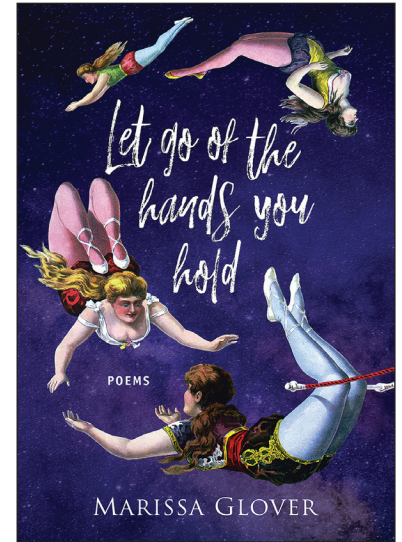


Let Go of the Hands You Hold: Poems by *Marissa Glover*

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Macon, Georgia—"Marissa Glover's *LET GO OF THE HANDS YOU HOLD* is the work of a poet with perfect pitch, a powerful testament to the violence we have endured, and our rebellion against cruelty," says H el ene Cardona, author *LIFE IN SUSPENSION*. "Themes of loss, love, motherhood, grief, identity, and memories interweave throughout with high-spirited clarity. Erudite, heart-wrenching, and multifaceted, this masterfully crafted collection delivers a daringly personal rendering of contemporary reality and bears witness to the human capacity to persevere in a broken world."

By turns clever, earnest, probing, and mischievous, Marissa Glover's poems take as their subjects the ever-relevant topics of sex, parenthood, loss, illness, and faith, and yet everywhere, in their tone and attitude, speak in the singular voice of a sly and vibrant woman banging up against the absurdities and disappointments of modern life.

In an alternately refined and breezy idiom, she converses with former flames and current politicians with the same ease and aplomb she does figures from biblical history or the heroes of classical Greece. Sometimes whimsical and often cheeky, her spirited poems always mean what they say and speak forcefully from hard-won experience. For some poems, QR codes link to spoken word delivery in Glover's own voice.

Above all, reading her debut collection, you feel you are being addressed by a weary but resilient and savvy fellow traveler who has done her bit of living and has something urgent to tell you, often tantalizingly "slant," about holding on to integrity and dignity in a world that seems utterly fallen.

"Marissa Glover's *LET GO OF THE HANDS YOU HOLD* is a full-tilt run at what it means to inhabit a female body—to own it, wear it, wield it, to suffer its pains, and inherit its urges and cautions in a world that feels more tightrope than freeway. Glover asks us to question cultural norms and bear witness, whether it's interrogating our roles in society or eschewing the legacy of misogyny as she points a velvet glove in its direction. Whatever Glover's experience, there is a sense of resilience and pragmatism throughout."

—Lois P. Jones, author of *NIGHT LADDER*

"There is certainly whimsy in Marissa Glover's poems, but it is a whimsy with something at stake. These are poems on the edge, exploring the passions and frustrations of the body with humor and pathos. At their best, they are angry without being bitter, funny without being flippant, tender without being sentimental. 'Discover what you love most about creation,' she writes. 'It is good. It is good.' And these poems make their way to that praise."

—Joseph Fasano, author of *THE DARK HEART OF EVERY WILD THING*, *THE CROSSING*, and *VINCENT*



Marissa Glover teaches writing, humanities, and public speaking courses at Saint Leo University. Before academia, Glover worked as a writer and editor for more than fifteen years. She is currently coeditor of *Orange Blossom Review* and a senior editor at *The Lascaux Review*, and her own work has been widely published in various journals and anthologies. Learn more about her at www.marissaglover.com.

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