



The Court of No Record

Poems

JENNY MOLBERG

Jenny Molberg's third collection of poetry, *The Court of No Record*, serves as both evidence and testimony against a legal system that often fails victims of physical trauma and domestic abuse. Drawing inspiration from true crime investigations and artifacts, including Frances Glessner Lee's crime scene dioramas and the tragic aftermaths of two serial killers who preyed upon women in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Molberg probes a cultural obsession with violence that performs active erasure of victims' lives. By engaging with historical texts through a personal lens, she sheds light on survivors who do not find justice and looks toward a future of positive systemic reformation.

JENNY MOLBERG is the author of the poetry collections *Marvels of the Invisible* and *Refusal*. As a National Endowment for the Arts fellow, she has published in *Ploughshares*, the *Rumpus*, *AGNI*, *Adroit Journal*, *Oprah Quarterly*, and other literary outlets. She is associate professor of creative writing at the University of Central Missouri, where she edits *Pleiades*.

PRAISE FOR *THE COURT OF NO RECORD*

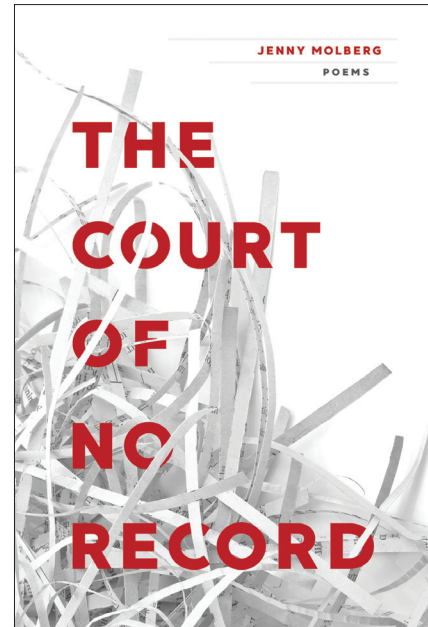
"In Jenny Molberg's harrowing new collection, the witness of documentary poetry meets the fearlessness of the confessional mode. What results is a book of powerful testimony."
—Shara McCallum

"Molberg's *The Court of No Record* questions our fascination with violence—specifically against women—and our woefully inadequate and misogynist response to it. Dead, abused, or threatened women (the stuff of so much of our detective/thriller entertainment) are given voice in these fearless poems. This is gorgeous poetry of witness, of social and political examination, of deep intelligence, and of a valiant heart."
—Denise Duhamel

"*The Court of No Record* takes us on a Dantesque journey through the infernal landscapes of toxic masculinity, intimate partner violence, and legal chicanery as the speaker's poems are used as evidence against her."
—Philip Metres

Hunting

The bow is an extension of the arm. The yellow-headed blackbird knows to stop its singing. The gun is an extension of the brain. A cow lows in the twilight field; the man says she's looking for her calf. The elk heads line the wall. The children have their mother's shot. The knife is an extension of the hand. Find the place between the ribs, he says. *Upward*. The hook is the extension of the line. Bait is a human lie made with a fly-shaped mold. Meat is the moment of death. Gun is the language that means America. The bullet is an extension of the gun's idea, which was a man's, a man who thought *all the way through*.



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Poetry



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