

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



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Announcing the May publication of

Spirit Walk

a novel by **Jay Treiber**



Brimming with bordertown corruption and blame-ridden recollections, this powerful literary debut opens at a turning point for college professor Kevin McNally, whose personal and professional lives have run aground, haunted by a violent border clash from his youth. Now, McNally must journey back to southeast Arizona's chaparral country to face the loss and trauma of his past.

As McNally delves into the thirty-year-old incident of violence and tragedy, tracks begin to emerge and shift between the past and the present: paper trails, linked memories, chains of gunshot, and stumbling steps—all overlaid with the pawprints of a wounded jaguar.

At once a page-turner and a thought-provoking debut to be savored, *Spirit Walk* explores the redeeming value of remembrance, friendship, and revisiting the past in order to move forward.

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Early Praise for *Spirit Walk*

“In this intersection of New West and Old West, Jay Treiber writes without sentiment about life, love, and death in the borderlands of the American southwest. *Spirit Walk* bleeds a rawness and honesty missing from much of today’s fiction—this triumph belongs within the canon of western literature. Watch out, Cormac!”

— **Andy Nettell**, owner of Back of Beyond Books, Moab, UT

“A thrilling and elegantly wrought debut about the far-reaching effects of our decisions, and our irrepressible desire to undo the worst of them. Treiber is a writer of enormous talents, and *Spirit Walk* will leave you breathless until the final page.”

— **Jonathan Evison**, author of *The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving*

“At once gritty and lyrical, *Spirit Walk* is a haunting tale of the modern American West. Out of the explosive violence, hard living, and stark beauty of the Arizona borderlands, Jay Treiber has woven a gripping story of remembrance and redemption, beautifully painting the place and giving voice to its people. I can’t stop thinking about it.”

— **Jennifer Carrell**, author of *Haunt Me Still* and *Interred with Their Bones*

“The borderland setting of *Spirit Walk* only appears empty. This landscape is inhabited by commingled cultures, criss-crossed jurisdictions and colliding values—where a rancher wouldn’t leave a bottle cap, traffickers litter bodies. Depicting an episode of violence as confounding in memory as the day it erupted, Jay Treiber shows the corrosive costs of the drug trade—and of burying the past. In the vein of Philip Caputo’s *Crossers*.”

— **Charlie Quimby**, author of *Monument Road*

“There’s a wonderful sense of authenticity and place here . . . Jay Treiber has given us a rich, well-written, multi-layered book to satisfy wide reading appetites.”

— **Robert Houston**, author of *Bisbee 17*



About Jay Treiber

Jay Treiber holds an MFA from the University of Montana, where he studied under writers William Kittredge and Earl Ganz. His poems and short stories have appeared in various literary journals, such as *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Farmer’s Market*, and *The Fiddlehead*. He makes his home in Bisbee, Arizona, and teaches creative writing and English composition at nearby Cochise College.

A Few Questions for Jay

Who were your role models, literary and otherwise, and how did they shape you as a person and a writer?

My chief role model for my comportment as a man in the world is my father, who died in 2004. His pull-yourself-up-by the bootstraps story is far more impressive than mine. The character Thomas McNally in *Spirit Walk* is made in his likeness: spartan in words and frills, strong, capable, brave, and relentless.

Bill Kittredge, one of my writing teachers at the University of Montana, is my role model as a writer. He and I have similar backgrounds and (former) bad habits. Through Bill, I learned the necessity of revision and what it is to be a writer in the real world. His tutelage helped to rid me of romantic delusions and give me a realistic picture, one that I much needed at the time.

Tell us about your experience with hunting, which plays a significant role in your novel.

My connection with the landscape begins with this primal act. When hiking or picnicking, I am a happy voyeur of Nature; when hunting, I am part of it.

I realize that I have ennobled big game hunting in my story—and I am, of course, not Hemingway. To an outsider, I think the hunting experience might appear simply a brutal act or prurient bloodlust. Hunters, as characterized in Hollywood movies, tend to be dangerous, drunken, and inept clowns. Perhaps true of a few. Still, that has not been my experience. The outdoorsmen and women I have known have harbored a profound affection for the animal they hunt and the environment in which that animal lives. Safety in the field and respect for the wildlife, for the land, for other hunters has always been paramount.

What book(s) are you reading now?

I recently read Lee Child's *Gone Tomorrow*, Paul Doiron's *The Poacher's Son*, Jennifer Carrell's *Interred With Their Bones*, and I am halfway through George Martin's most recent installment of the *Game of Thrones* series.

How has landscape shaped you as a writer?

In a scene in *Spirit Walk*, Armando Luna tells Kevin, "We need to tell the story the right way." They are standing on a hillside on the Escrobarra Ridge, and Armando has just killed a deer. The experience in the wild is incomplete without the story, and it must be the right story. It is an old theme, really; our hero ventures forth into the wild or across some sea, on some manner of quest, and returns, perhaps without the beautiful Helen, but with a story to tell.

About Torrey House Press



Torrey House is an independent book publisher of fiction and nonfiction about the environment, people, cultures, and resource management issues relating to America's wild places. Torrey House Press endeavors to increase appreciation for the importance of natural landscape through the power of pen and story. Through the *2% to the West* program, Torrey House Press donates two percent of sales to not-for-profit environmental organizations and funds a scholarship for up-and-coming writers at colleges throughout the West.



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