

Abby E. Murray

Abby E. Murray is a poet, instructor, editor and activist. She was born in Puyallup but spent years moving from state to state with her husband, who is still active duty in the U.S. Army. She recently returned to the Tacoma area when he was assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. She earned a bachelor of arts degree at Seattle University, a master of fine arts degree at Pacific University and a doctorate degree at Binghamton University. She also taught creative writing at universities and community colleges in Colorado, Georgia, Washington and New York.

Because Murray identifies as a conflicted pacifist indirectly impacted by military service, her poetry, essays and community endeavors often focus on the lasting ramifications of violent conflict beyond the combat zone. She is the editor of *Collateral*, a literary journal that publishes creative work exploring this experience, and is passionate about creating platforms to amplify voices of marginalized writers and artists. War reaches into all our lives, she says, which is why she teaches poetry and writing workshops to the public and military families, trauma survivors, and the undocumented and detained. She also teaches creative writing at Tacoma School of the Arts and argumentation in military/academic writing at the University of Washington, on fellowship from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Murray has several chapbooks published, including *Quick Draw: Poems from a Soldier's Wife* (2012) and *How to be Married After Iraq* (2018), and her first full-length collection of poems, *Hail and Farewell*, recently won the Perugia Press Poetry Prize and will be released in fall 2019. She considers her poetry to be her most tested and trusted survival skill.

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