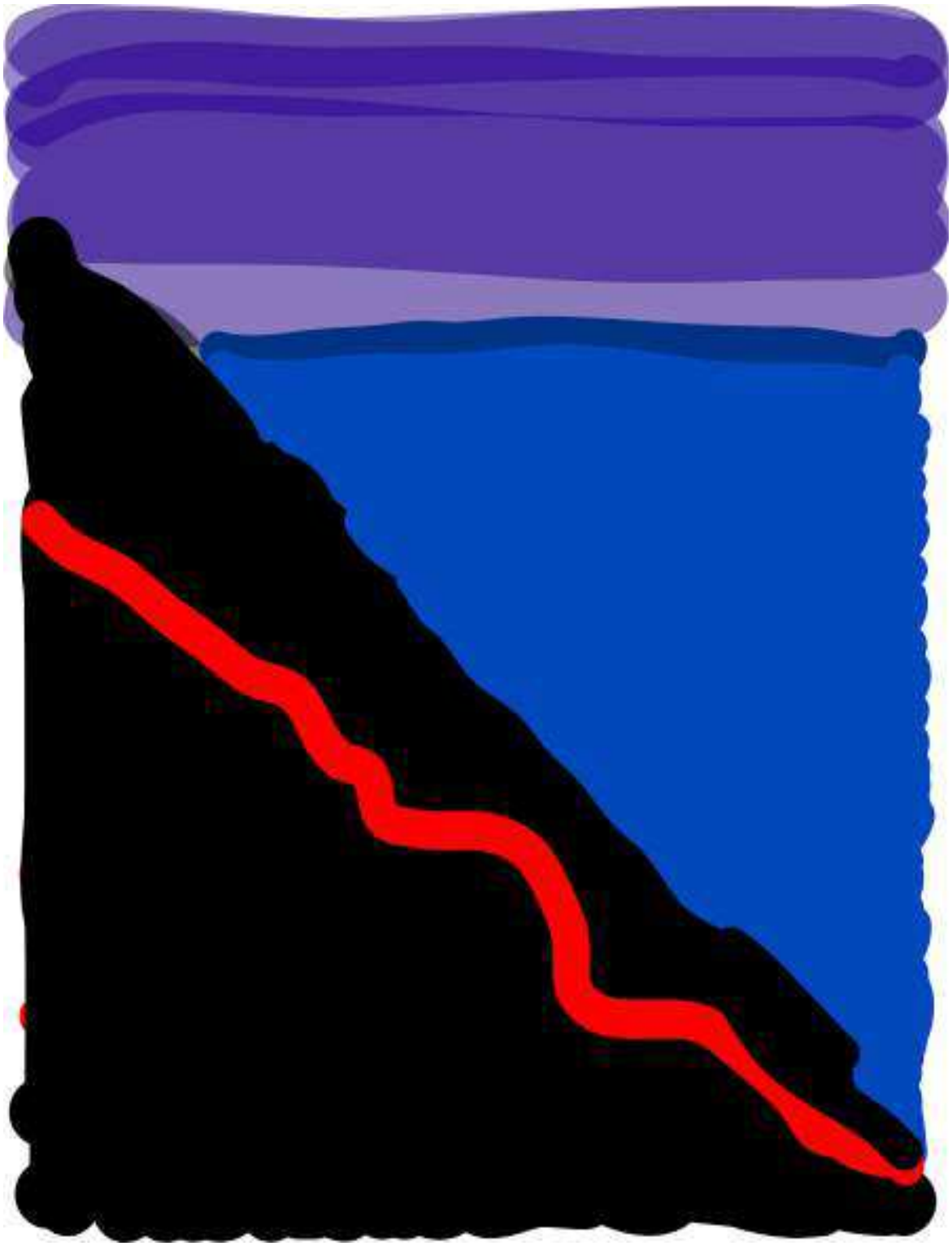

Aloha Mele

Katherine Hastings

Argotist Ebooks

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Aloha

Mele

Love Song

Horizon to horizon

ocean winds howl,

dismantle petals faded

The throat of the pine's dress

shifts with light and life

Needles blister with music

Diaphanous wings fold

in the quenched hive of solitude

Only thoughts mill around

and incense driven air

— phantasmagoric balm —

sharing dreams inside

late kissed leaves

The bud, the bloom

advancing towards you

Aloha

Mele

Under our feet

planet route and reel

We step forth o'er

the spin

say

Be still

impossibility

Return love directly

to the veins

Remember the beat of it

and beat again

Which is how?

Peer downward into the sky

float outside your dreams

You won't shatter

though a little red may burn

beneath the grass

Leilani

Kailani

strong

love-limbed girl

accountable only to green, to blue

fruitful boughs pitched in moonlight

once carried off

in umbra

Take note of your wings'

passion and farewell

The evening is laid out

corner to corner with greening light

The ocean passes over

the shores firm body

gentle-handed

Motion beneath us

Motion above

Mea' aloha —

mea' aloha

Afloat in naked beauty

swirl'd mist

Kiss to a shell,

kiss to a kiss

Turned tenderly

toward

together

Unchecked breath unbound

We are the pair

with silken nests on the flower

lokelani,

ohia lehua

Children at play

busted out of the deep

dark

ravine

of melancholy

Come Your shining face

will not die in my arms

Aloha

mele —

flight of steam of exhalation

The bell rings this:

There is becoming

beyond the surround

becoming

Neither Selfness

nor monotone darkness

curled cowardice

or fantasies left

Some kernel of

Some scent of

joy

Orison to orison

Listen to the little breeze,

lei'd companion of sun,

sailing forth over hibiscus,

over slow lava flow

What we need for

aloha mele midnight rattle

of coconut fronds Warm wind-shaken

from roots to sky Husk Husk The sun's

hot hands brushing the skin of hours —

salt, sand, sea A ceiling of stars posed

in the door of lava caves, or fallen

to the balcony of light dark light

Torch-flickered paths revealing

birds of paradise, pulsating drums —

hula hips swaying touch taste love

here on heaven's shore — the space for living

wide open under the sky

Aloha aloha

mea' aloha

to your hands

to your breath

to your flight

to our momentary moon

mahina

Baby birds unafraid to open

to swoop and hoard

even the smoke

as it rises

gently

from the bed of your black stream hair

moku, ipo

moku, ipo

your lips

your lips

your breast

your belly

your blood

Aloha, hour of sighs

aloha

We are still being born

at last

into scattered light

receding

like the sea

into the sea

Honu,

Honu,

H u m u h u m u n u k u n u k u a p u a ' a

Aloha, mea'

Aloha

Notes

"Aloha" has several meanings. One of them is "love.'' It is also a greeting, a farewell, and a way of life.

"Mele" means ‘‘song'', ‘‘poem'', and ‘‘poet.''

‘‘Aloha Mele'', means ‘‘Love Song'', ‘‘Hello Song'', and ‘‘Farewell Song'' all at once.

"Honu" is the green sea turtle

"Humuhumunukunukuapua'a" is the Hawaiian state fish

"Kailani" is a girl's name meaning "Sea and Sky"

"Leilani" is a girl's name meaning "Heavenly Flowers"

"lokelani" and "ohia lehua" are two official flowers of Hawaii, one from the Big Island of Hawaii, one from Maui

"mahina" means "moon" and "moonlight"

"mea' aloha" means "beloved"

"Mele" means "song"

"moku, ipo" means "island, lover" or "island, sweetheart"

About the Author

Katherine Hastings is the author of *Cloud Fire* (forthcoming from Spuyten Duyvil in 2012) and the chapbook *Updraft* (Finishing Line, 2010). She hosts a radio program called *WordTemple* on NPR affiliate KRCB FM and a live poetry series, also called *WordTemple,* in Sonoma County, CA with occasional appearances in San Francisco. For more information go to www.wordtemple.com