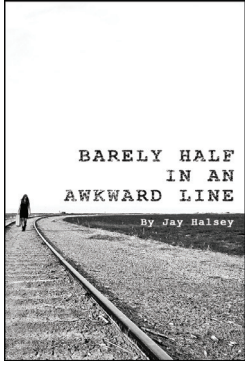


HAUNTED DOLL HOUSE. AUTUMN 2023.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Barely Half in an Awkward Line weaves together photographs — featuring desolate rural and urban landscapes, thought-provoking and often-bizarre portraits of masked subjects, and abandoned homes — with writing on poverty, chemical abuse, homelessness, violence, class struggle, and the mishaps of destructive love and misguided choices. This prescient, genre-resistant, multimedia work of art examines the insecurities and terrors derived from the habitual traumas of struggling to find humanity within an inhumane society.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jay Halsey works, reads, writes, and shoots photos. He cannot prove he's educated beyond grade 12—institutionally speaking. His poems and prose have been published in several online and print journals and nominated for Pushcart and Best of the Net. His photography has been used as cover art for poetry collections and novels, featured in fundraising campaigns for the Rocky Mountain Land Library in Fairplay, Colorado, and was part of a touring exhibit featured at libraries and bookstores throughout France to represent Editions Gallmeister's American authors. At 19 years old he flipped his junk Camaro into a crowded gas station after crossing into oncoming traffic, climbed out unscathed, went home, and fell asleep. He was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, and has lived on the Colorado Front Range for the past sixteen years. Since then, he's worked as a champion for those worse off than he, explored and recorded desolate places absent of people, written of anger and love, and sought a peace that may or may not exist.



PRAISE FOR THE BOOK

Jay Halsey said, "I'm not interested in presenting photos of how landscapes/urbanscapes look exactly in real life. I'm interested in showing how they make me feel on a personal level." Jay's photos alone occupy that personal/emotional translation space, and the written pieces that accompany the photos in *Barely Half in an Awkward Line*, transports us to an additional translation space that allows us to feel deeply. Jay accomplishes this by giving us our own/new points of view and perspectives.

— Steven Dunn, author of *Potted Meat and water & power* (Tarpaulin Sky Press)

Jay Halsey's debut work *Barely Half in an Awkward Line* takes the reader into liminal spaces, where dualities exist but are often ignored or overlooked. His poetry, prose, and photographs ask the reader to linger in the sacred spaces where urban and rural meet in oft-overlooked visual and linguistic intersections. His work draws the reader's attention to the fault lines that prevail in the aching dichotomy, eliciting deeper consideration of the powerful heartbeat of humanity. He draws our attention to the boundaries of nature, asphalt, and the skipped-over cracks where they exist together. Within this complex, haunting vision, Halsey invites the reader to interact—despite the powerful unease and tension of worlds and their borderlands. His words and visuals are charged with the powerful potential for violence, change, and hope, asking us to open our eyes to what is unseen or relegated to ambivalence. *Barely Half in an Awkward Line* is one of the most powerful books of 2022, a stunning debut, a book you will never forget.

— Brenda S. Tolian, author of *Blood Mountain* (Raw Dog Screaming Press)



HAUNTED DOLL HOUSE is an imprint of Agape Editions. As our name suggests, we aren't afraid of the dark: we live there. We want your horror stories, your mystery novels, your dark sf/f, your genre-resistant writing about the ecstasies, traumas, & terrors that took you to the very edges of yourself.