

# THE SHORE

POETRY

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## Chris Hutchinson

### Breakfast at the Armory Hotel in Bozeman, Montana

Somewhere in the future  
from inside the antique armoire  
inside the Armory Hotel, the future  
is looking back at me.

But not before I peer in  
at the sequences of switchbacks  
and figure eights, the puzzling  
tunnels and galleries  
of the worm-inscribed  
mahogany.

It looks like someone tried  
to write a sonnet  
on a roller coaster  
with one finger.

Deciphered and sonified  
it is the underground lighthouse  
sound of ringing in my ears.

As a figure of speech  
that got lost along the way  
to the doomsday parade  
it is the horizon's feathery fringe that blinks  
when the sky closes its big blue eyes  
to sleep.

As real as the fact of my own birth  
as certain as the place / time coordinates  
of my final breath

and better

than any superlative exaltation  
it is like frying a quail's egg  
but burning the butter

like the recurring dream they have up here  
in Montana, of lassoing bulls with rope  
woven from mulberry silk.

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**Chris Hutchinson** is the author of four previous poetry books, as well as the cult classic auto-fictional verse-novel *Jonas in Frames*. His next poetry collection, *Lost Signal*, is forthcoming in Canada with Palimpsest Press in 2025. Chris teaches in the English Department at MacEwan University in *amiskwaciwâskahikan* (Edmonton, AB) on Treaty 6 territory.