



## All My Relations

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By Christopher McIlroy

University of Georgia Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 208 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.6in. Set against the stark but seductive landscape of the American Southwest, the stories in *All My Relations* explore the inner landscape of mind and heart, where charting the simplest course is subject to a complex constellation of relationships. In the title story of the collection, a Pima Indian hires on with a rancher in an attempt to quit drinking and to win back the wife and son who have left him. His efforts to master land and horses and to bake the perfect cake mirror his efforts to subdue his own demons and to embrace a peaceful domesticity. In *The Big Bang* and *The Good House*, Tony, a former drug dealer, pits his urge toward chaos against the orderly pleasures of marriage, finally yielding to the solidity and spaciousness of domestic love: I feel myself gathering weight, density. Cautiously, I allow myself to inhabit this Good House, which surprisingly fits like my own body. Julia, the aging protagonist of *Simplifying*, risks her fragile health in a love affair; her generosity of spirit toward her lover is matched in inverse proportion by the frugality with...



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