

failed haiku

A Journal of English Senryu
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adjei agyei-baah

Guest 'Failed' Editor

www.failedhaiku.com

[@SenryuJournal](#) on Twitter

[Facebook Page](#)



Haiga by: Marilyn Ashbaugh

Our Guest Failed Editor:

Adjei is a language lecturer, translator, editor and presently a PhD candidate at University of Waikato, New Zealand. He is the co-founder of Africa Haiku Network, Poetry Foundation and the Mamba Journal, Africa's first international haiku journal. Adjei is a worldwide anthologized poet and winner of several international awards. His maiden haiku collection "Afriku" published by Red Moon Press, 2016, was commended last year at The 1st Asian Literature Festival held in Gwangju, 2017, by Africa's first Nobel Prize Literature laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka. He is the author two other haiku/ senryu books: Ghana 21 Haiku (Mamba Africa Press, 2017), Piece of My Fart (Mamba Africa Press, 2018) and look forward to publish his fourth haiku book Tales of the Kites with Red Moon Press in United States this year, 2018.

And here is the link to Africa Haiku Network, a site which he co-created and edits "The Mamba" with his haiku friend and "brother" Emmanuel Jesse Kalusian:

<https://africahaikunetwork.wordpress.com/>

Cast List

In order of appearance

(all work copyrighted by the authors)

Barbara Tate

Helen Buckingham

Ivan Gaćina

Anna Cates

Bill Cooper

Michael Kozubek

Barry George

David Oates

Rachel Sutcliffe

Ramlawt Dinpuia

Natalia Kuznetsova

Debbie Strange

Tracy Davidson

Nicholas Klacsanzky

Radka Mindova

Bruce England

Wendy Bialek

Steve Dolphy

Pris Campbell

Sunita Agrawal "Neh"

Gillena Cox
R K Singh
Djurdja Vukelic Rozic
Angela Giordano
Vandana Parashar
Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo
Skaidrite Stelzer
Elizabeth Crocket
Mary Ellen Gambutti
Dubravko Korbus
Hifsa Ashraf
Bryan Rickert
Michael H. Lester
Srinivasa Rao Sambangi
Kevin Valentine
Christine Taylor
Oscar Luparia
Valentina Ranaldi-Adams
Sarma Radhamani
Roberta Beach Jacobson
Richard Grah
Eren Cehreli (7-year-old)
Aljoša Vuković
Amy Losak

Marianne Paul
Bob Lucky
Pitt Buerken
Bruce Jewett
Louise Hopewell
Scott Wiggerman
Jay Friedenber
Sondra J. Byrnes
Kali Lightfoot
John Hawkhead
Réka Nyitrai
Robert Epstein
Martha Magenta
Elmedin Kadric
Colleen M. Farrelly
KB Nelson
Nancy Shires
Cynthia Rowe
Michael Henry Lee
Marilyn Ashbaugh
Nikolay Grankin
Marta Chocilowska
Charles Harmon

Margaret Walker
Kath Abela Wilson
Ingrid Bruck
Vera Constantineau
Vishnu P Kapoor
Terri French
Ron Scully
Corine Timmer
Pravat Kumar Padhy
Daniele Sannipoli
Carol Raisfeld
Angiola Inglese
John J. Han
Marietta McGregor
Chen-ou Liu
Anthony Itopa Obaro
Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian
Susan Beth Furst
Adrian Bouter
m. shane pruet
AJ. Anwar
Kelly Sauvage Angel
Terrie Jacks
Praniti Gulyani

Tom Blessing
Christy Draper
Terry Macrae
Bruce H. Feingold
Rashmi Vesa
Paula Lietz
Claire Vogel Camargo
John J. Dunphy
Gowtham Ganni
Lew Watts
Margherita Petriccione
Daniel Ajayi
Lucia Fontana
Gautam Nadkarni
Kristyn Blessing
Christina Chin
David J Kelly
Nina Kovacic
Paul Beech
Ann Schechter
Jill Lange
Gail Wolper

major storm
the sound of his car
in the driveway

morning
I walk down a path
of endless forgiveness

carpe diem
dining solo at a table
for two

Barbara Tate

throwing down the lettuce
Big Sister calls me
slug girl!

sea view...
feeding him
slowly

summer blues
sneaking back
inside my flat

blue moon
eye to eye

Helen Buckingham

old billy goat
breaks his horns
about his wife's infidelity

deaf stepmother
leads her stepchild
on a blind way

beautiful lady
is a plank in the eye
of a married woman

Ivan Gaćina

June wedding
missing at the altar
two cold feet

littered asphalt
a mother in hijab passes
the brothel

library sales rack
a father in trench coat
flips through chick lit

Anna Cates

my children
running ahead of me
a cowbird

breezy palms
half-under a car dad stretching
for the old-timer's foul ball

warm brick face
the sun-bleached sign
for milk delivery

pebbles in drizzle
two daughters disagree
about who feeds the doll

an osprey chick
crouches almost flat in the nest
swooping eagle

Bill Cooper

with no whit of wind we

our lives together
little left...
cookie crumbs

with thanksgiving smiles
in the kitchen
we sharpen knives

at the altar
we exchanged
our promises . . .
in the trash
the broken baby toys

the baseball well struck . . .
through the picket fence
we see our neighbor
carry another ball
to the garbage can

Michael Kozubek

my nephew's fastball —
I hand back his glove
and keep the sting

mom forever
remembering the story
and forgetting she's told it

new adventures
of a boyhood dog...
after Dad's surgery

in the wee hours
after Granddad's death...
my uncles snoring

Barry George

she says, “We need to know
each other better
before we make love.”
she talks for 45 minutes;
she’s ready

as the plane’s
about to land
he uncrosses his ankles
puts his feet flat
on the floor

miscarriage
the gap between living children
ages with them

novice burglar
to foil the electric eye
wore black

autumn dusk –
smuggled past the nurses
sausage biscuit

holding the thought
when my son is difficult
I was worse

now a parent
finds himself forgiving
his parents

David Oates

family reunion
calling someone
to troubleshoot

the childhood home
(where) laughter once filled
silent now

slicing
through silence
family dinner

family reunion
all the old jealousies
turn up

family gathering
treading on familiar
eggshells

family holiday
we all go
separately

Rachel Sutcliffe

morning devotion
the absent daughter
fills mother's prayer

.

wall painting
grandma's portrait
still catches the eye

master bedroom
the silent wife
speaks volume

discussion
between grandma's cough
a fire crackles

trapped inside
by evening rain
wandering husband

family planning
the unplanned child
cries for toys

Ramlawt Dinpuia

moving apart
after a short-lived marriage -
the sun eclipse

his wife's
coming home early ...
divorce petition

their son
still roaming the world ...
driftwood

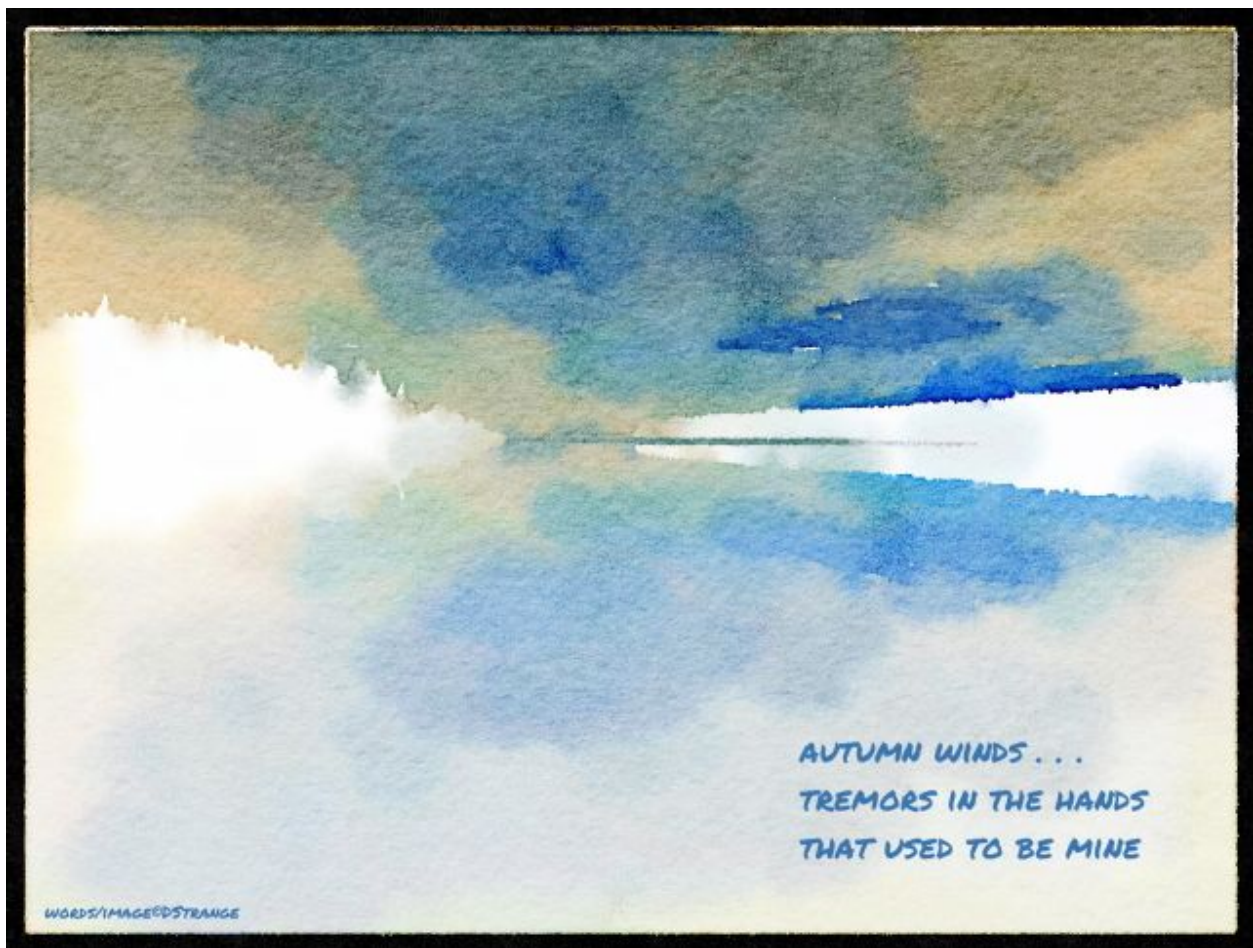
Natalia Kuznetsova



a dragonfly for luck

the morning after

her diagnosis



AUTUMN WINDS . . .
TREMORS IN THE HANDS
THAT USED TO BE MINE

WORDS/IMAGE©DSTRANGE



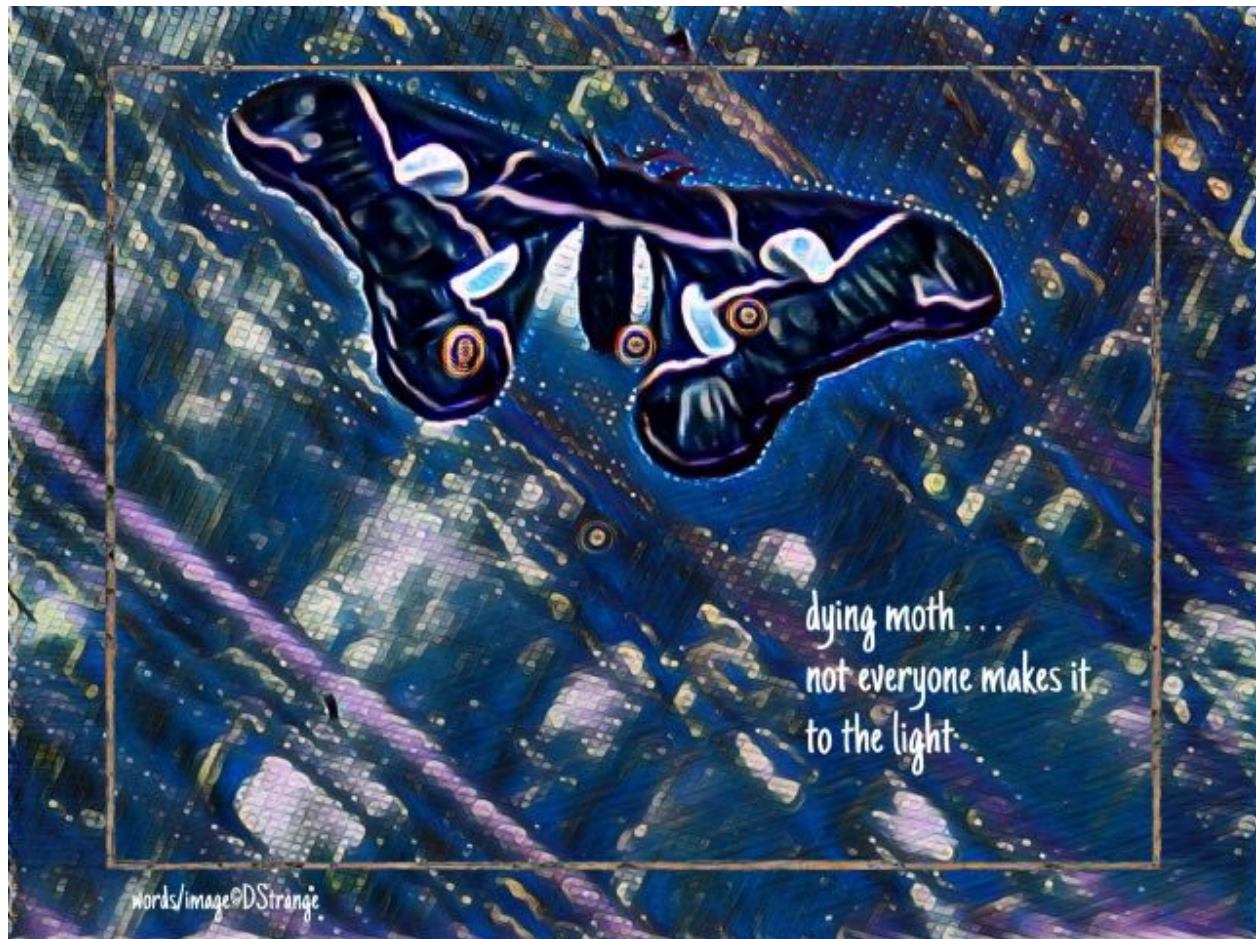
bone graft
two types of apples
on the same tree

chronic fatigue

it is so hard to

FINISH

what i started



Debbie Strange

saying grace
my daughter asks
who the 'ah men' are

empty wheelchair
the howls of grief
from my mother's dog

parents anniversary
their wedding photo
between the urns

Tracy Davidson

snowflakes . . .
somehow we all want
to be noticed

empty swing—
all my thoughts
of being a father

memorial day—
plastic flowers
on a grave

Nicholas Klacsanzky



Radka Mindova

Man yells,
“tell ya funny joke
for a cigarette”

Old man
squirms in easy chair
watching pro-wrestling

She looks crazy
black around both eyes
she looks sexy

Undressing,
she tells me what’s wrong
with her body

She stops
three car-lengths behind me
to be in the shade

Bruce England

after the snap
family removed his arms
but not the ptsd

family
i watch them grow
on Facebook

she offers brussel sprouts
but tells her Barbie doll
it's lettuce

Wendy Bialek

lost soft toy
my daughter asks me
to give a eulogy

her first steps
videoed on a old phone
non-transferrable

doorbell chimes over
his snoring picks up
where it left off

Steve Dolphy



late baby
novice photographers track
every move

pris campbell



Pris Campbell

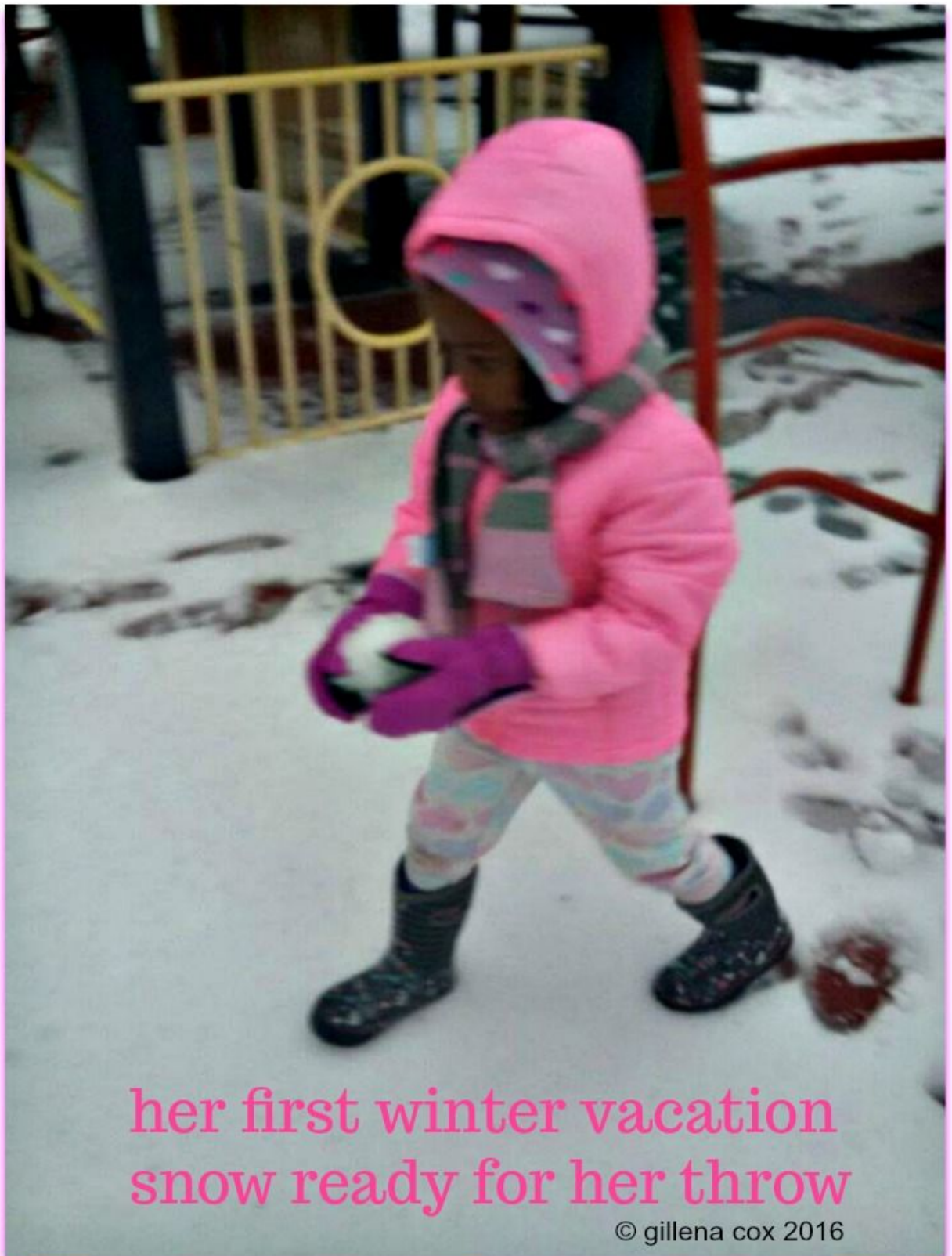
eyes filled with tears –
in friend's suggestion
appears his name

Sunita Agrawal "Neh"




© gillena oca 2012

it all makes sense
my childhood landscape reviewed...
salt and green guavas



her first winter vacation
snow ready for her throw

© gillena cox 2016



© gillena cox 2014

*a wee Christmas tree
we place bangles and bells -
Zuri and Granma*



Gillena Cox

pumpkin for dinner
she rues my preparation –
devil's shit

waking up
gloves ready for the catch –
unclaimed light

knee-deep in the pond
awaits fresh catch to buy milk
for the new-born

R K Singh

<http://rksingh.blogspot.in>

too foxy a dress
and breakneck high stilettos
says her grandfather

an art auction-
the new rich acquires
his family past

heavy snow
her tall gravestone smothered
his mistress tomb

somebody adorned
a tomb with fresh flowers
the empty one

Djurdja Vukelic Rozic

solitude –
the TV stays on
all night long

roar of thunder –
the cat crouched
under the skirt

after the storm –
a small sandal
on the shoreline

Angela Giordano

happily married –
all the lies we tell
and truths we hold back

tectonic shift
his shirt smells
of an alien perfume

multiple tabs
he opens solitaire
as mom enters

divorce
my child draws stick figures
of a happy family

Vandana Parashar

a life away
the one I yearn to see -
falling stars

Sunday afternoon -
loneliness makes
no sound

I write my name -
the echo of his voice
calling me

Anna Maria Domburg-Sancristoforo
<https://ventodelgiorno.wordpress.com/>

new country
my aunt learns to polish
strangers' floors

each morning
I watch the rise and fall of blankets
my daughter's breath

my grandmother's mole
the stamp of exile
on her back

Skaidrite Stelzer

last words
it's a mountain
but you'll climb it

old cabinet
his wallet so full
of memories

the whistle
of dads favourite bird
bittersweet



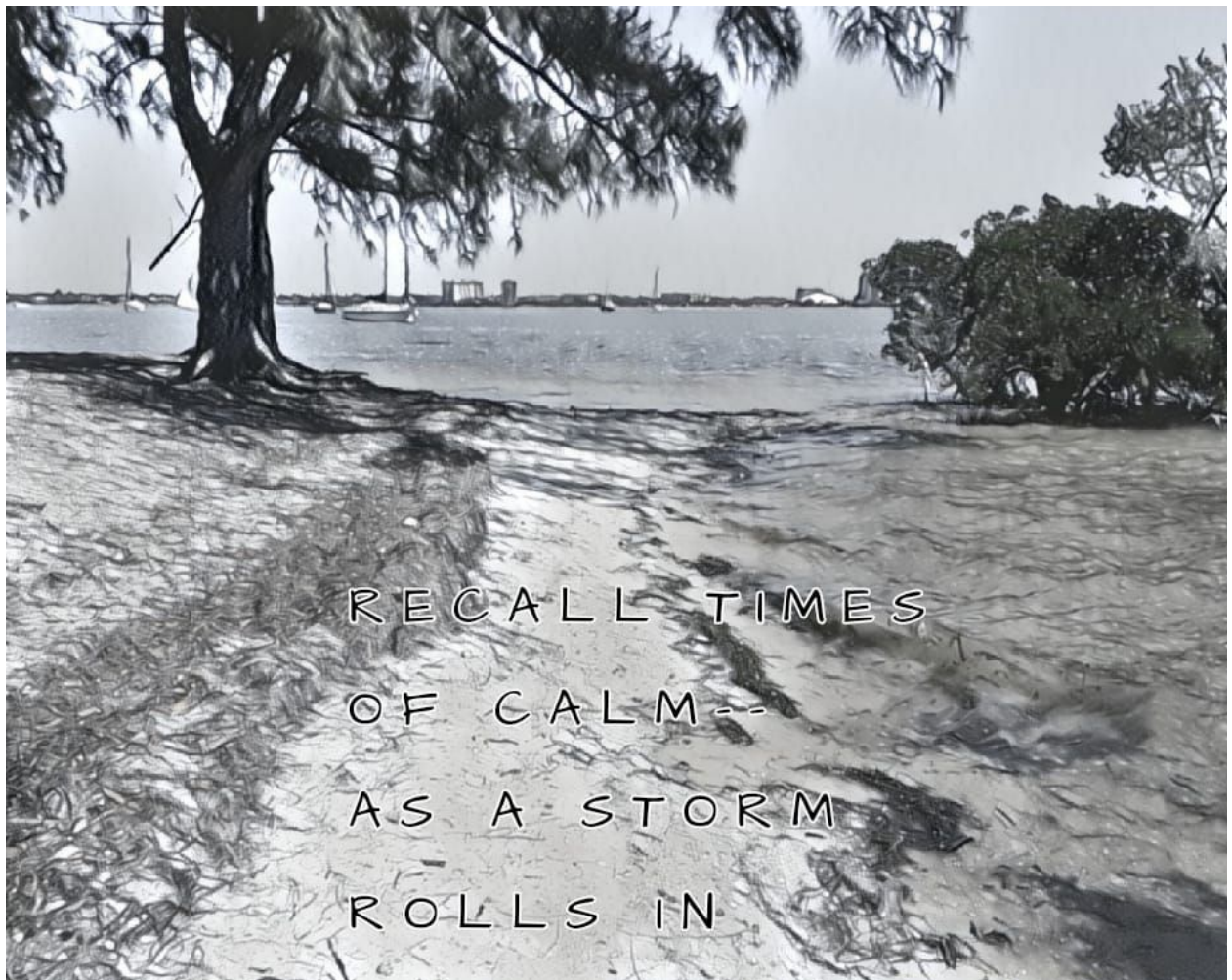
Haiku - Elizabeth Crocket Photo - Emma Girodat

Elizabeth Crocket
Elizabethcrocket.com

my old mother who raised me
says don't forget to call
she means, don't leave me behind

complicated and flawed
the people we attach to-
grey curtains fluid in the breeze

deciders of
life's twists and turns-
time and love





mel gambuttii

wary
anole
basks
and
bakes

wants
not for
bread
or
roses



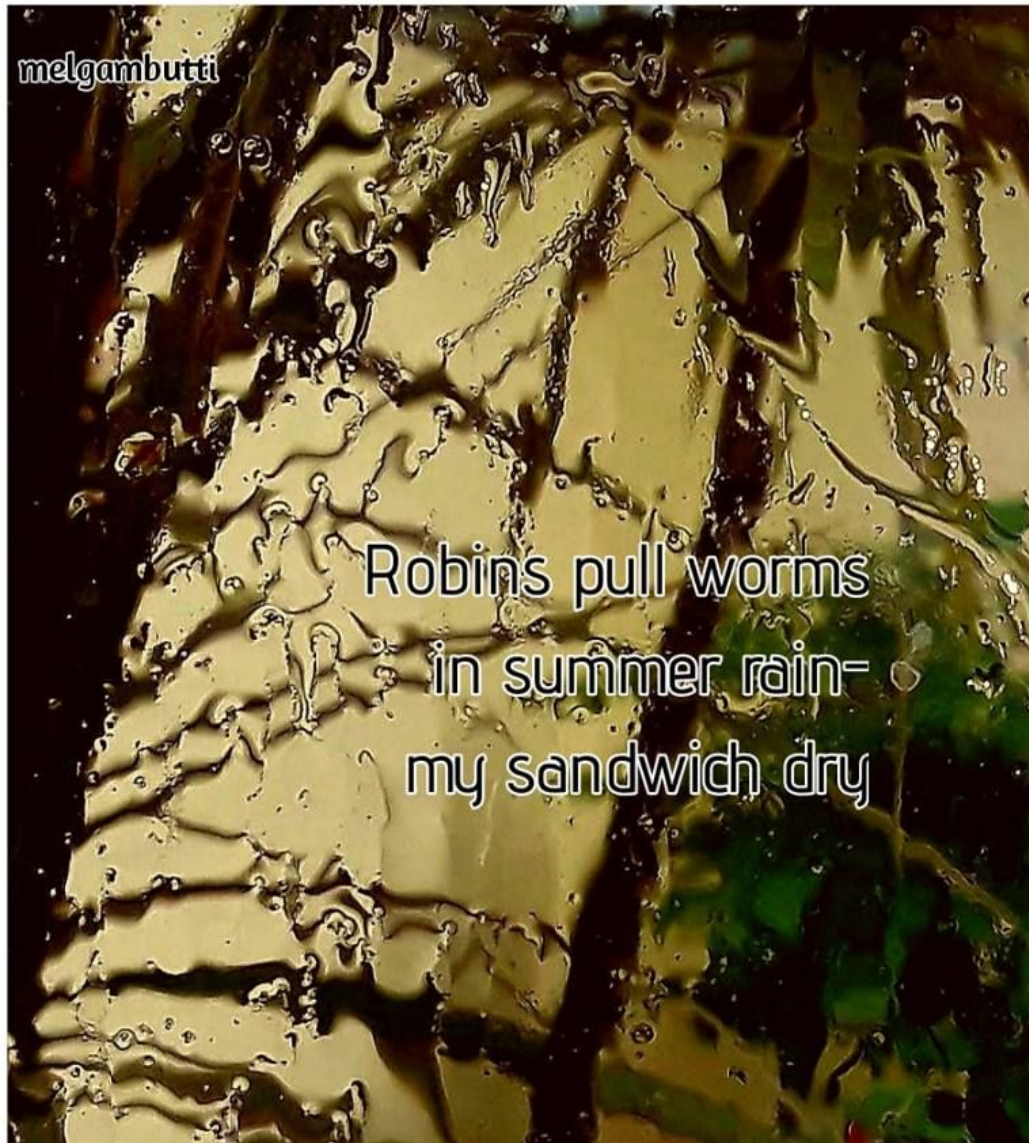
pastime
mother and i
play cards
on the
carpet-
Go Fish

mel gambutti

MelGambutti

summer--
truth takes a
holiday



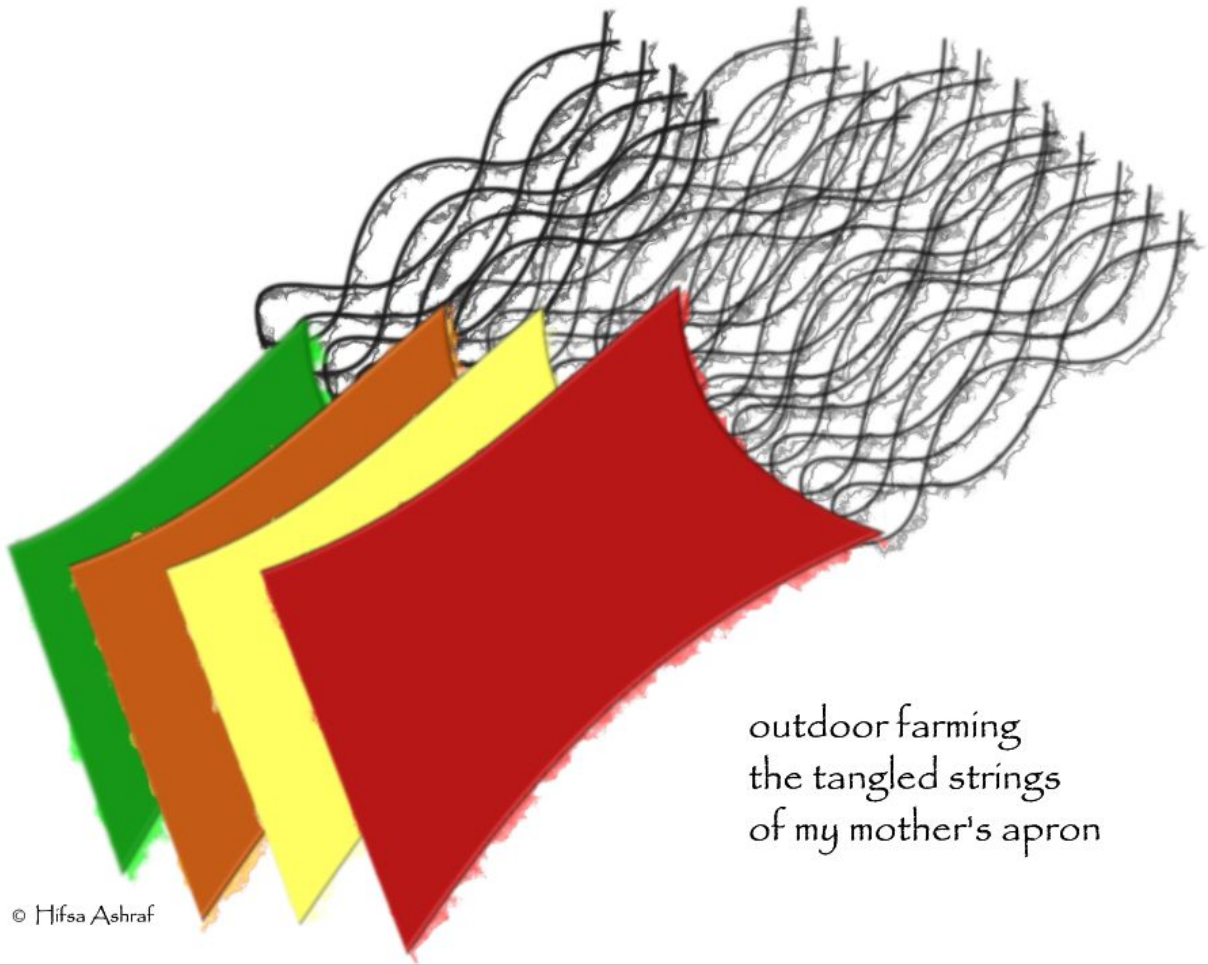


Mary Ellen Gambutti

<http://ibisandhibiscusmelwrites.blogspot.com>

a cut out squash
copying a smile
of my ex-wife

Dubravko Korbus



outdoor farming
the tangled strings
of my mother's apron

© Hifsa Ashraf

mother's remedies
the way i learn
about pain



© Hifsa Ashraf

Hifsa Ashraf

coffee with mother
bitter as usual

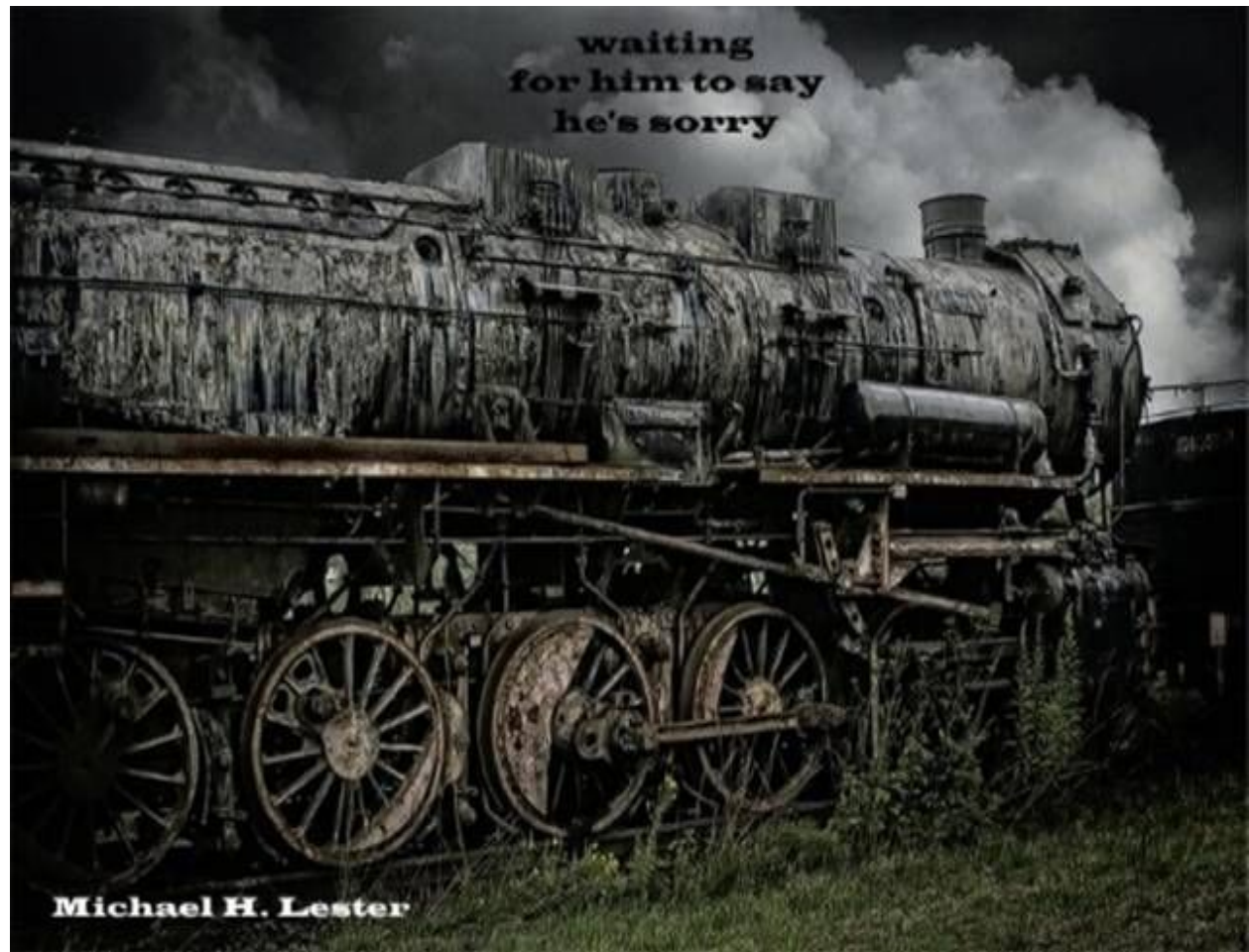
rain darkens
the small headstone
Mother's Day

marriage counseling
topping up my coffee
to make it hot again

after the fight
the ease at which
my wife falls asleep

Bryan Rickert

waiting
for him to say
he's sorry



Michael H. Lester

roses—
when you cannot find
the words



michael h. lester

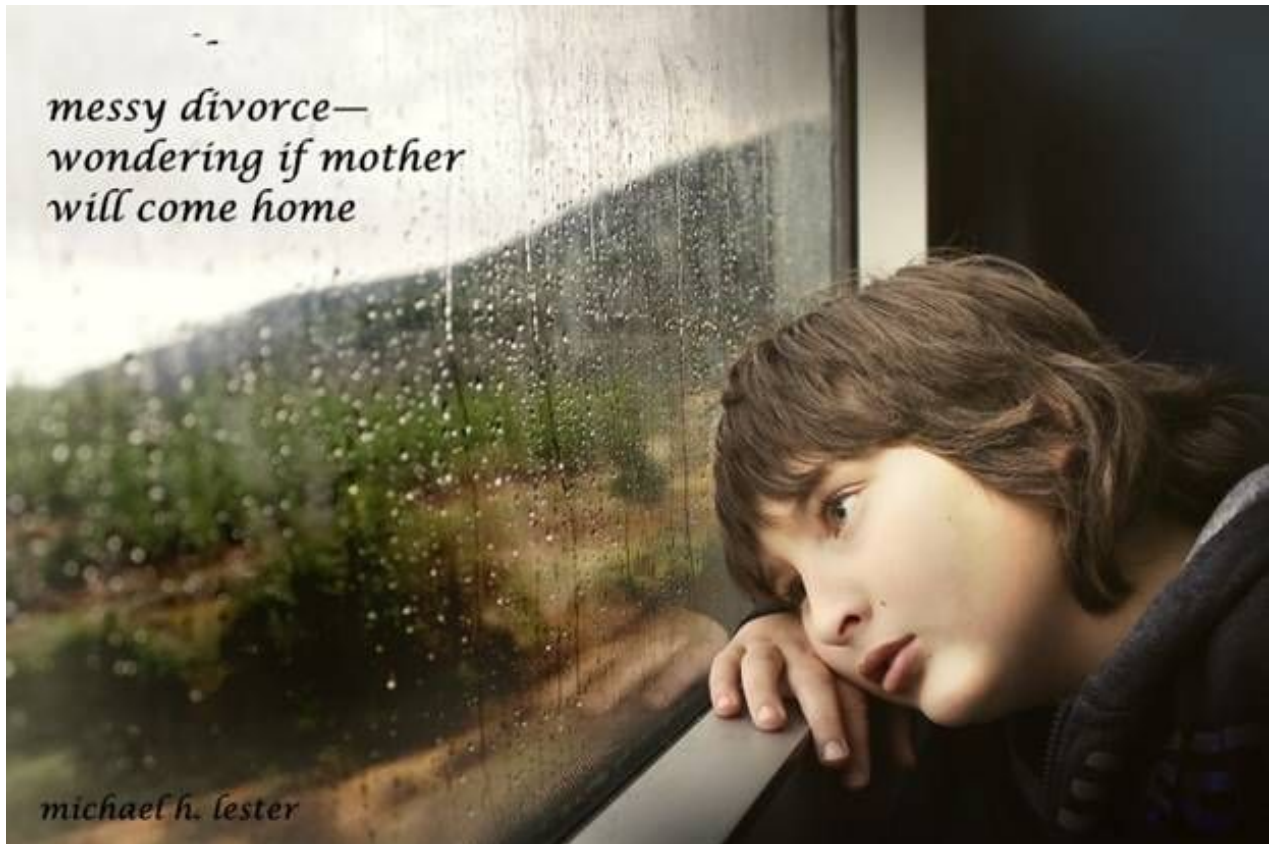
visiting her son
and future daughter-in-law
she leaves her coat on



Michael H. Lester

*messy divorce—
wondering if mother
will come home*

michael h. lester





Michael H. Lester

father's loss
this time no argument
who should cry first

family dispute
foxtail outgrows
the farmhouse

festival visit
I too tell them I like
to sleep on the floor

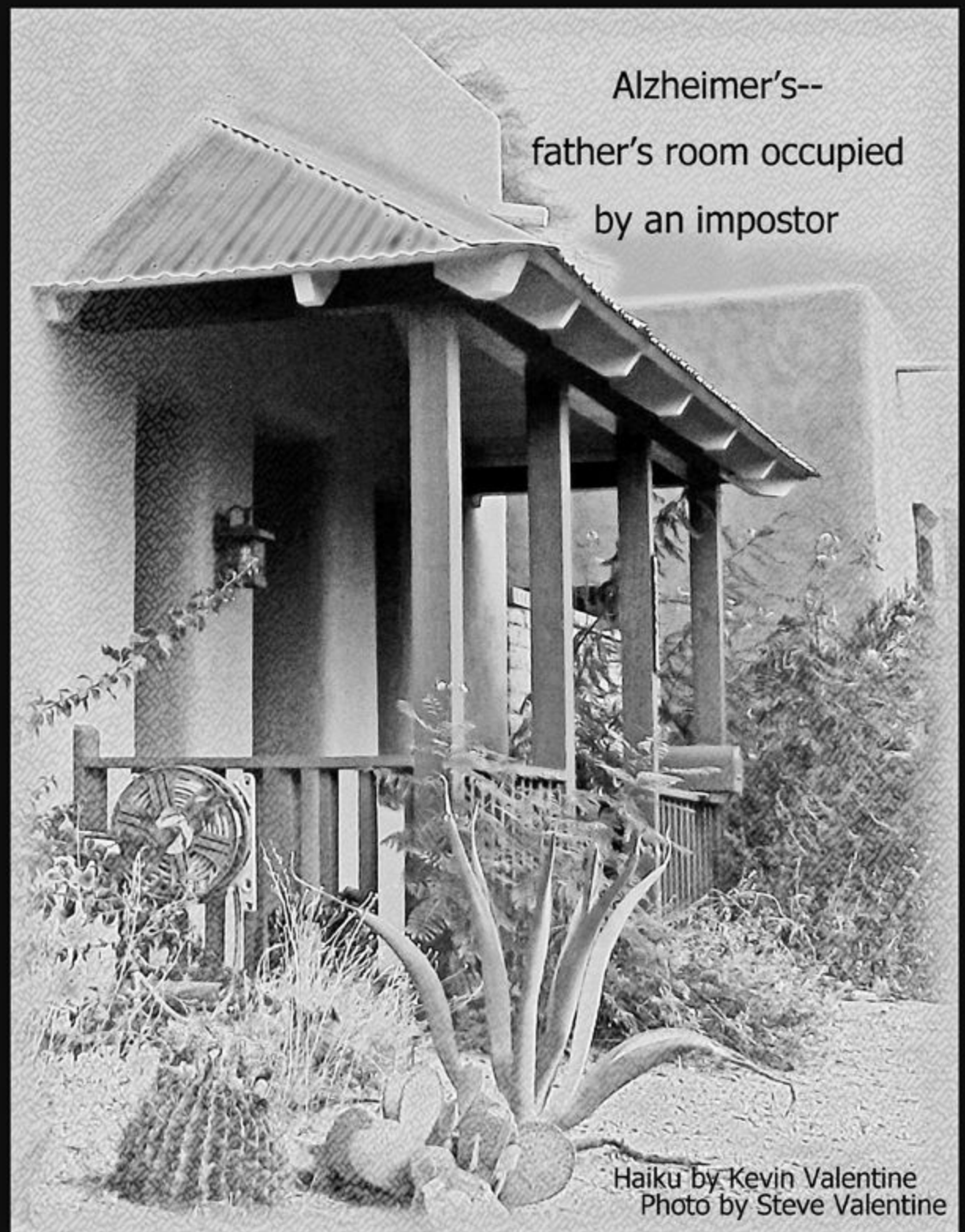
I left her
to the universe
from the river
from the urn

Srinivasa Rao Sambangi

sheriff's daughter . . .
committing a felony
with each kiss

frozen Margaritas –
ladies of the family
confiding secrets

Alzheimer's--
father's room occupied
by an impostor



Haiku by Kevin Valentine
Photo by Steve Valentine

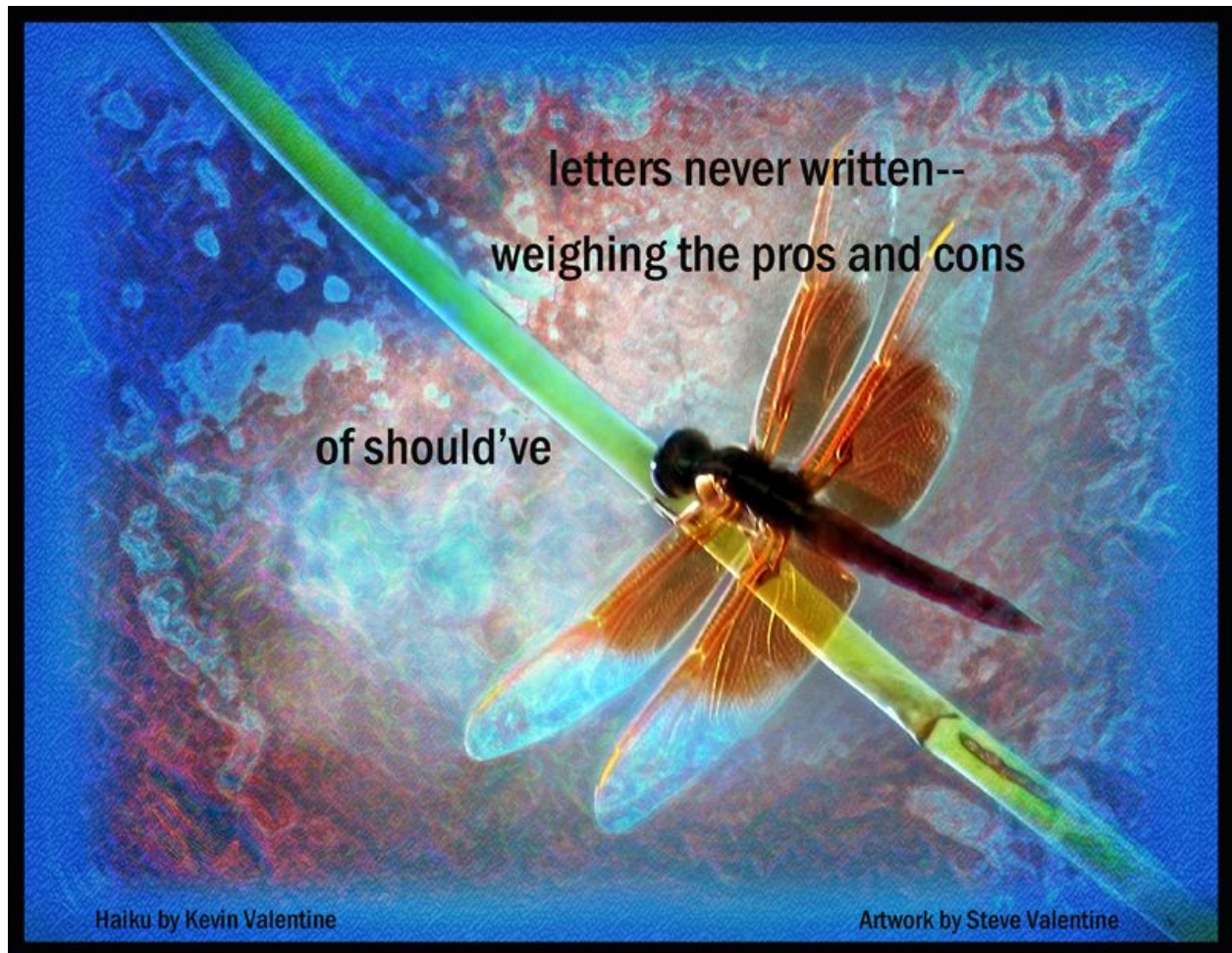
deep silence




coming home from the vet's

alone

Haiku by Kevin Valentine
Artwork by Steve Valentine



Kelvin Valentine



my sister claims
she'll listen now

Christine Taylor



Christine Taylor



Oscar Luparia

Father's Day . . .
balloon release
at the cemetery

estate sale . . .
I deconstruct
my mother's life

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

ride on scooter
with her brother- in- law
divorce notice

sudden demise
of grandpa
unregistered will

Sarma Radhamani

your half-lie
collides with
my half-truth

third time around I do but I don't

Roberta Beach Jacobson

<http://www.RobertaJacobson.com>

growing up...
the end of my favorite
fairy tale
the family plot...
sinners lie
with saints

Richard Grahn

family joy
baby birds flying
from cloud to cloud

Eren Cehreli (7-year-old)

refugees camp-
a little girl leafs through
her family's album

lack of money-
mom and dad
talking again

soccer, movie
and a cartoon-
in need of another TV

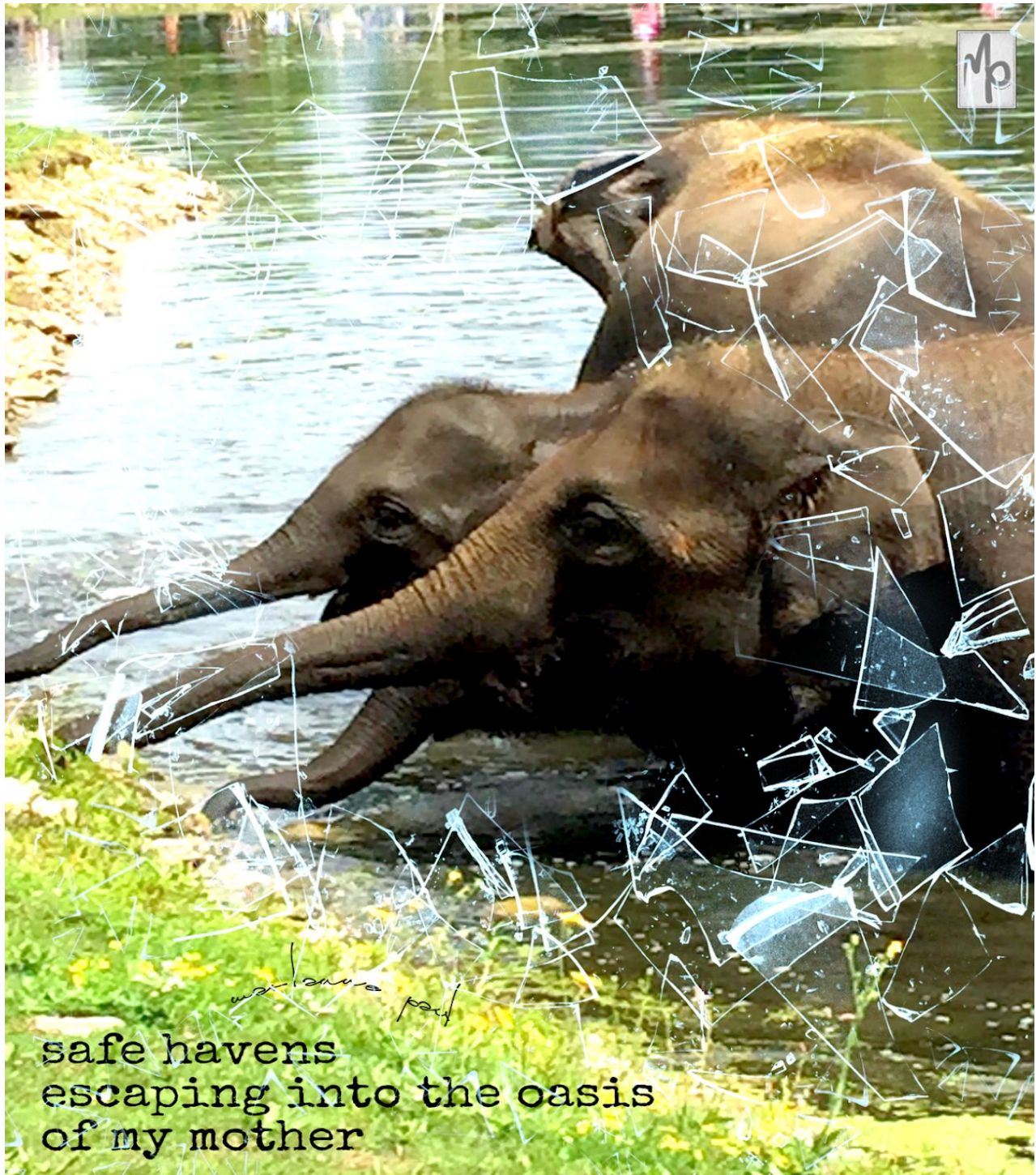
Aljoša Vuković

after a long day
daddy swings his little girl
up to the sky

father's gentle push
the young boy zooms down the street
on a new bike

Amy Losak





Marianne Paul

family reunion -
every word a stone
launched into the void

the old nest
now it is full of love –
a newborn

evenings in winter –
Grandma's fairy tales
next to the fire

Angela Giordano

first date
brushing my teeth
until my gums bleed

arriving late
the light on
but the door locked

dirty dishes
I lose
the coin toss

pointing out there are certain things one shouldn't point out

Thanksgiving
the aunt who's stopped drinking
brings cheap wine

Bob Lucky

Adam and Eve
now practicing to start
a family

newborn Jesus cries
Joseph is investigating
for his rival

Pitt Buerken

if we meet next life
please let's not marry
just coffee will do

the family house
fortress of secrets
mice sworn to silence

the scarecrow
terrorizes my garden
stepfather's clothes



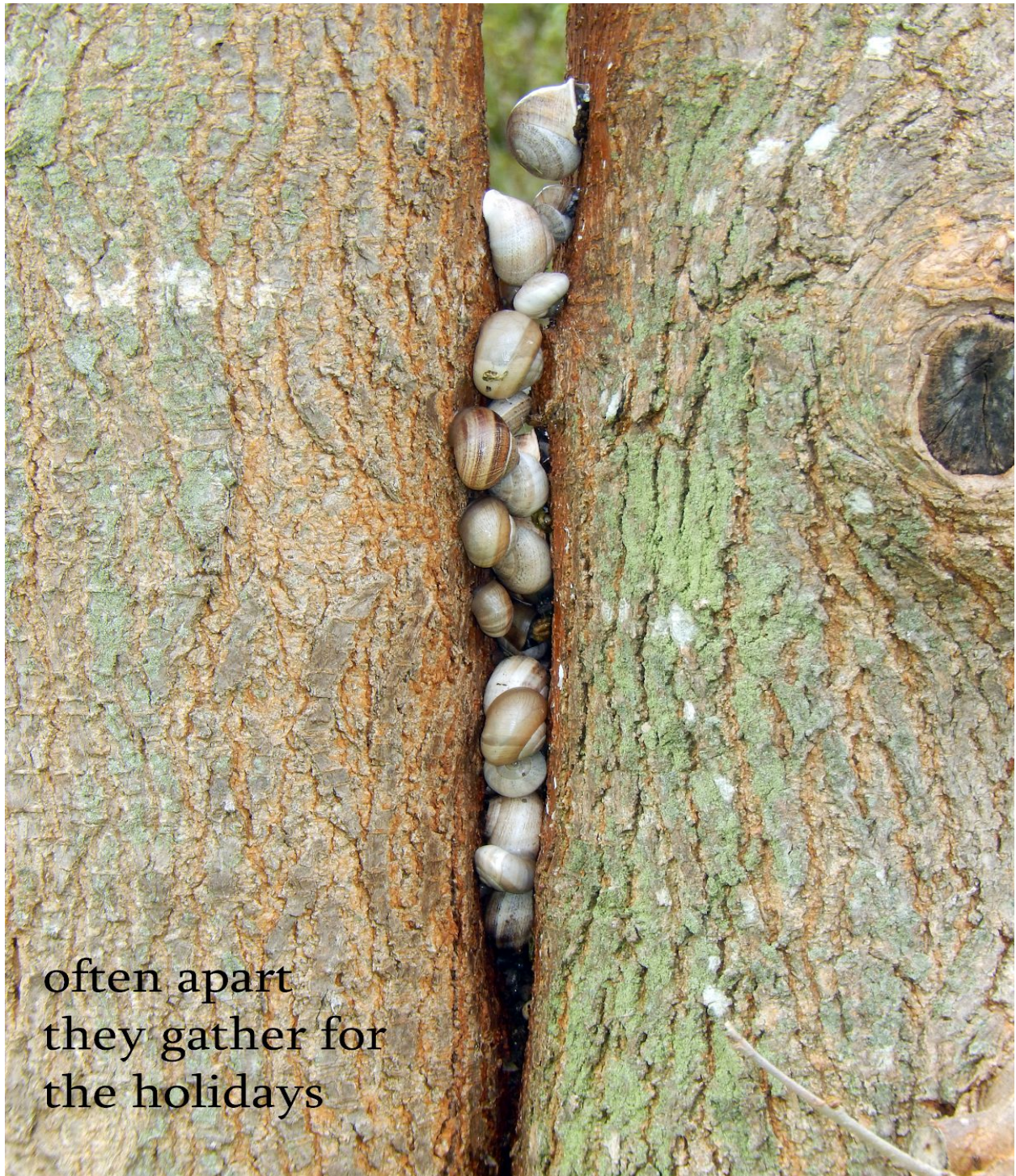
Bruce Jewett

dad rolls his eyes
when mum speaks
family tradition

field of sunflowers
all the sisters I'd pick
over mine

graduation day
mum says don't forget
your hanky

Louise Hopewell



Scott Wiggerman

morning at grandma's
the smell of bacon
wafts upstairs

winter sun
my wife's deep sigh
of discontent

stories of the great depression
grandma's well-tended garden
gone to seed

hip hop music
my grandfather recounts
the good 'ole days

on the back porch
grandma's after dinner stories
shine in the moonlight

Jay Friedenber

leaving home
a curve carved off
the moon

the sisters braid
each other's stories—
strawberry fields

mother's day
the long silence
between us

branches barely touch
my faraway
family

Sondra J. Byrnes

Wilderness Ranger (Sequence)

krummholz
wood like living rock
at timberline

walking all of the
switchbacks shows maturity
or sore knees

bannock
hard salami macaroni trail mix
cheese repeat

one layer
of ripstop nylon between
me and my imagination

Kali Lightfoot

hospice nights
remembering with fondness
her remission

ivy through the gate
the tangled iron
of grandfather's hair

rarely trodden path
through tangles of mist
auntie's memories



John Hawkhead

in a failed marriage
longing to be touched
... cactus

first day of autumn -
watching mother's traits
take over my face

Réka Nyitrai

twenty years old
I give Dad's bidet
a proper burial

for a lick
I put my hand up to
the old dog's photo

November afternoon—
mom tells me her brain
has floated downriver

Canada geese
that don't stop honking
Dad's death day

sepia photo
no one yet knows who
the Holocaust survivors are

Robert Epstein

broken gate
against the wall
father drunk again

heads up
through the sunroof
emergency cesarean

nursing home
her last cup of tea
gone cold

Martha Magenta

gummy bears
the family
she makes up for

mid-fall
I lean a little
on my father

Elmedin Kadric

the last ember
flickering in the hearth—
divorce papers

revving
the motorcycle engine—
the miniskirt rides up

sharp words
and shards of broken glass—
Cupid's arrow missed

Colleen M. Farrelly

today
you might have been born
do I make a cake?

I grieve
to learn my confidants
are not

gracious birthday girl
smiles through family
gathering
torture

KB Nelson

dancing in her new dress
while they mourn
her would-have-been brother

funny story
I respond with
my mother's laugh

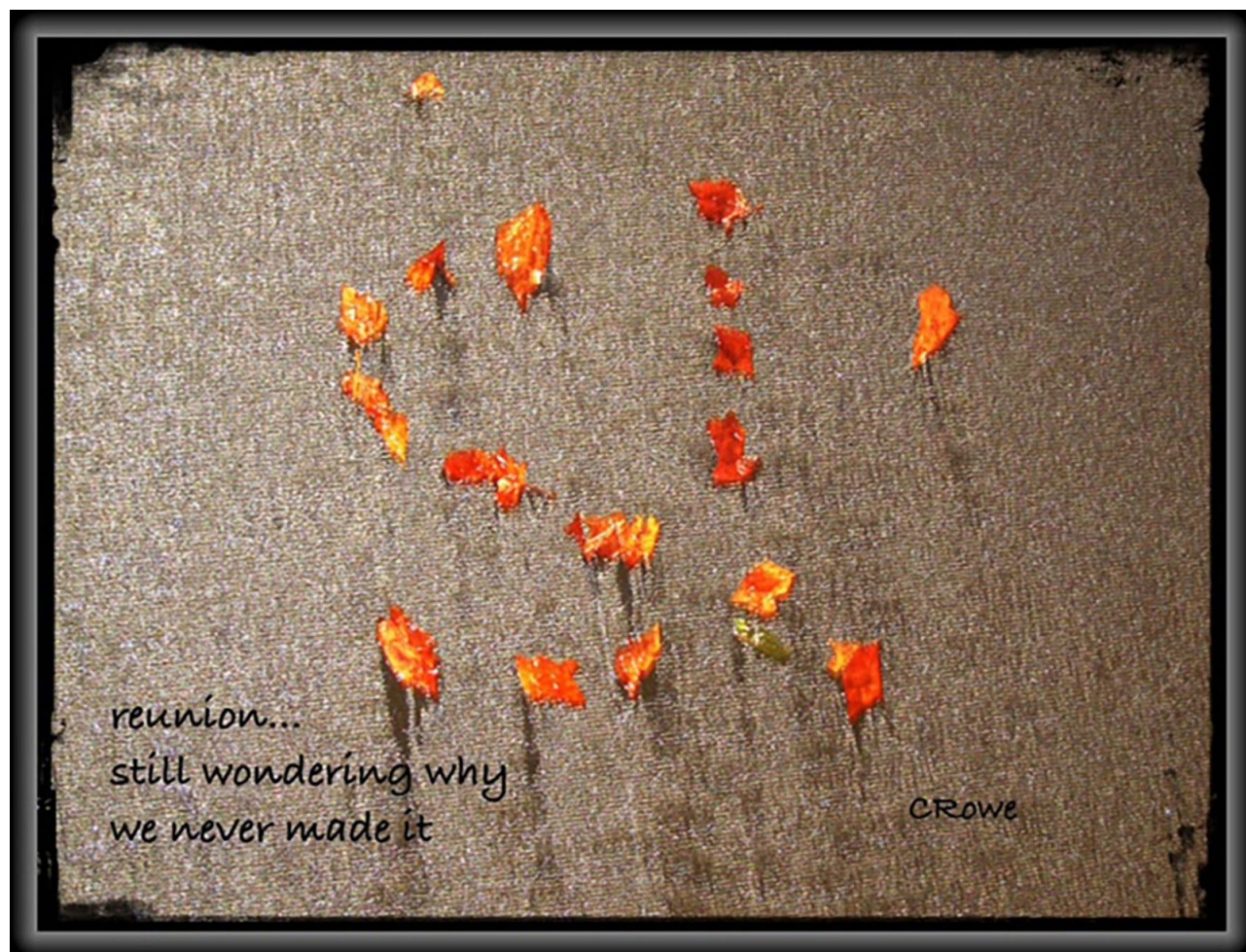
great-grandma's farm
if I could walk the hills
in that photo

Nancy Shires

sea glass . . .
my mother's conflicted
reflections

All Hallows' Eve
from under the witch's hat
my daughter's shy smile

day moon
grandpa turns his back
on the breaking wave





Cynthia Rowe

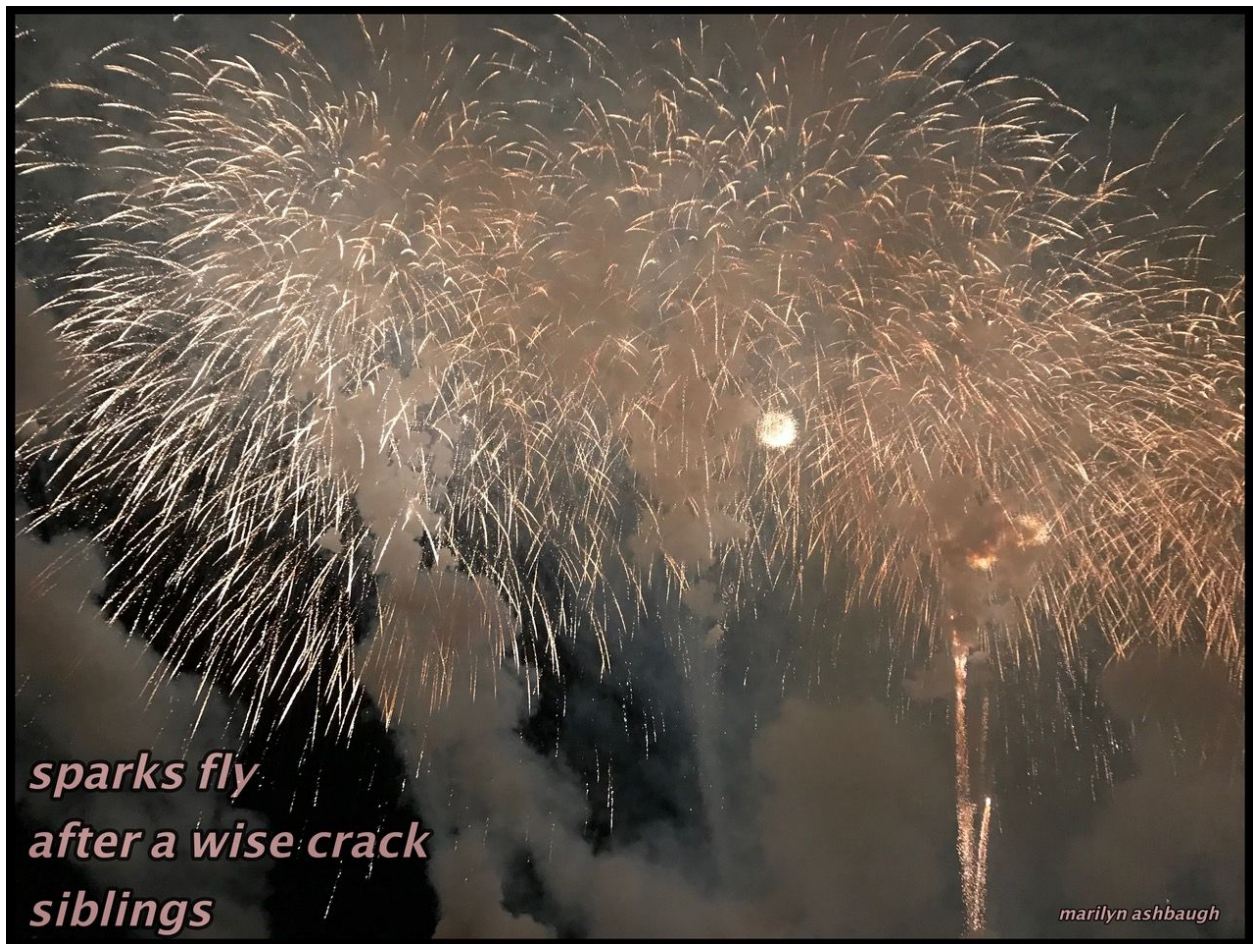
New Year's Day
barely an emoji
between us

love
the one four letter word
that escaped us

Christmas morning
perfecting our
instability

first day of school
i find i'm from
a broken home

Michael Henry Lee



*sparks fly
after a wise crack
siblings*

marilyn ashbaugh



*Christmas church
grandma's slow walk
down the aisle*

marilyn ashbaugh



*late frost
how small the world
without my sister*

marilyn ashbaugh

Marilyn Ashbaugh

children's art
mom in the drawing is a terribly
attractive woman

evening tea
the warmth of our words
between us

whipped clouds
in the mom's kitchen
a new cake

Nikolay Grankin

with you at Starbucks
tasting pumpkin spice latte
from same cup

granny's chair
on the knitting needles
a half-done sock

thunderstorm
granny makes signs of a cross
above me

spring cleaning
our wedding portrait
on a scrap heap

family album
on the pregnant woman hand
two wedding rings

Marta Chocilowska

books to the ceiling
Mom went to heaven
hoarding and earthquakes don't mix

princess when we met
look what my wife got
for kissing a frog

her long laundry list
for the perfect husband
no wonder they left

shining borrowed light
the moon goes through phases
like our family

Charles Harmon

rough seas
she wears his old jacket
still holding her

ashes scattered
the surfboard gathers dust
in the corner

Margaret Walker

times of need
mom makes homing pigeons
out of dollar bills

five little windfalls
how we fell
into her hands

still rolling
and well built at 90
mom's loose screw

Kath Abela Wilson

big family
talking at once –
blackbirds fill the trees

no trespassing sign
father pins up dead skins
a barbed wire warning

my father's rules
the evacuation route
goes one-way-only

Ingrid Bruck

midlife crisis
too much work
same wife

nerves frayed to a string
she lies on cool sheets
clock ticking

the chatty optometrist
doesn't catch the look
in mom's eye

Vera Constantineau

afterwards
mom's ring
in dad's box

years of marriage
egoless
I'm Buddha

Vishnu P Kapoor

pay day
father slurs
his apology

my eldest son's birthday
trying to recall
his little boy voice

family road trip
a billboard offers me
Salvation



terri l. french, '12

cowbird's song
an adopted child
brought home

terri l. french, 2012



identity crisis
the middle child
leaves the shadow

Terri French

Father's day
handmade fly tie
empty tackle box

my brother's compass
settled left of true north
we follow the stars

son's whelk shell
on the corner of my desk
seaside laughter

Ron Scully





*baby's breath
in the bride's bouquet
—my third attempt at IVF*

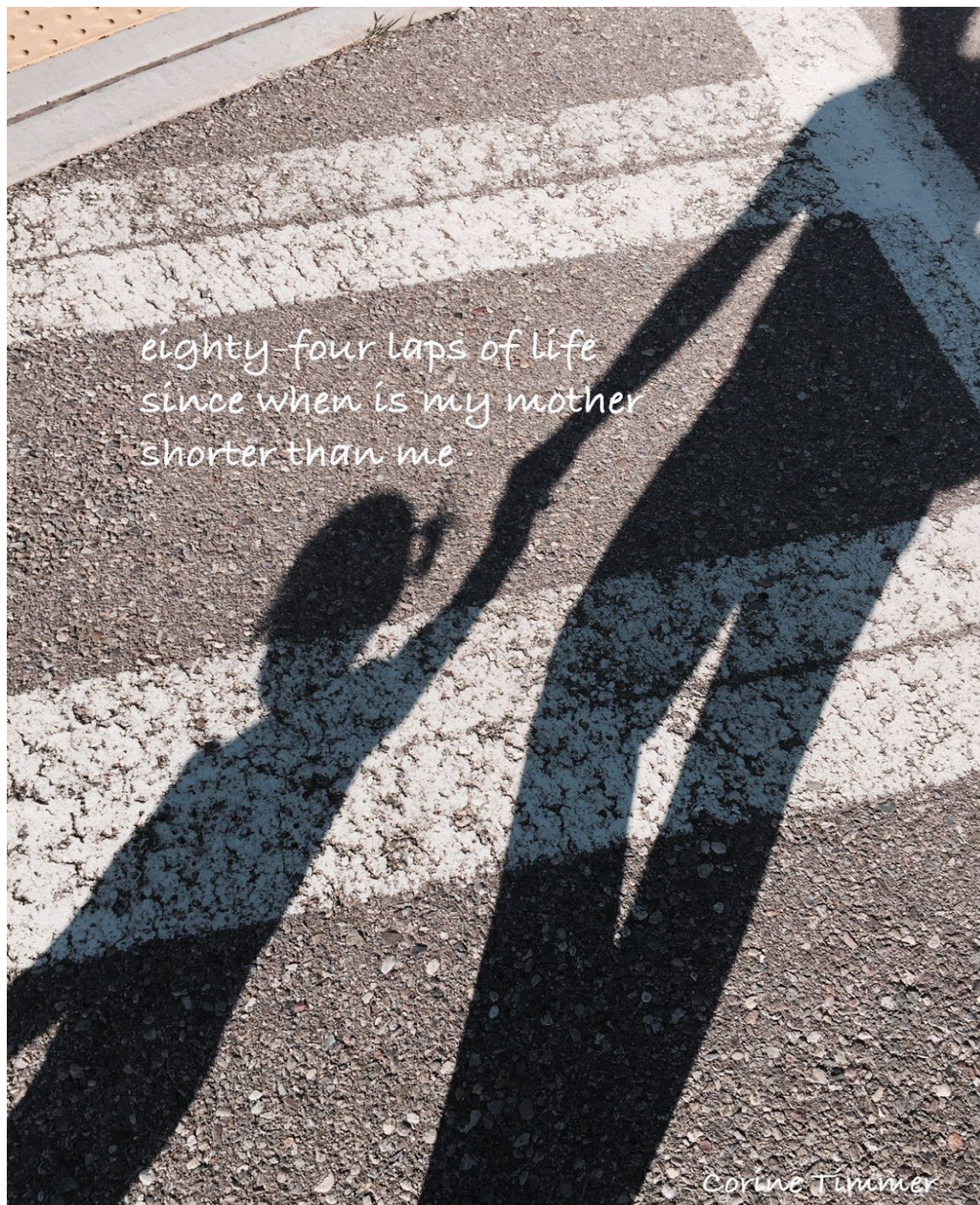
Corine Timmer

Pexels

*first sleepover—
grandma's toothless smile*

Corine Timmer





Corine Timmer

bitter smoke --
he hesitates to take
her call

cobwebs
their arguments
knit each other

counter complains
the hot coffee tagged
as cold

broken glass
everyone in family
for a blood test

Pravat Kumar Padhy

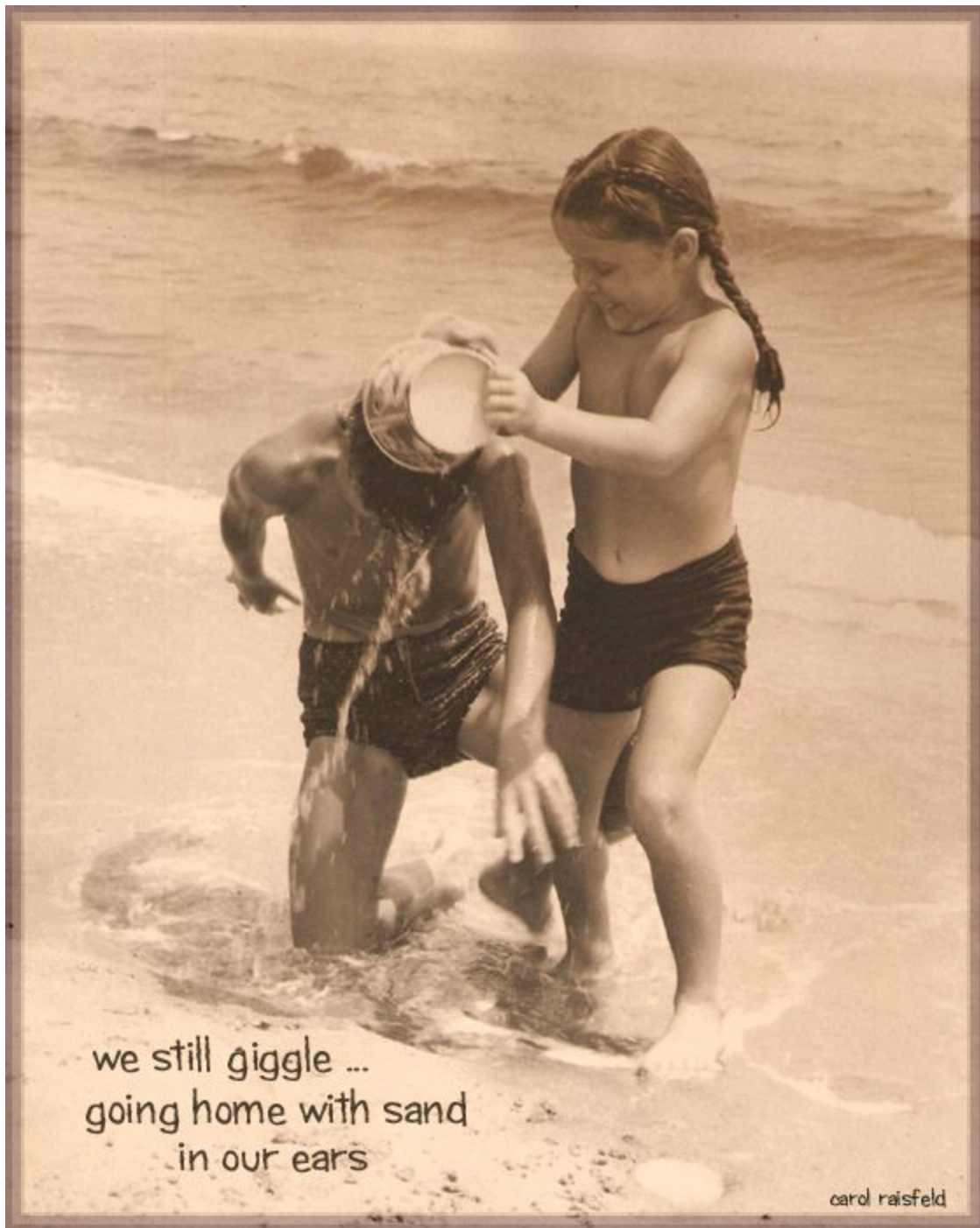
goodnight kiss –
between our lips
the taste of toothpaste

Daniele Sannipoli



*requiem mass
the fireman's unborn son
in the first pew*

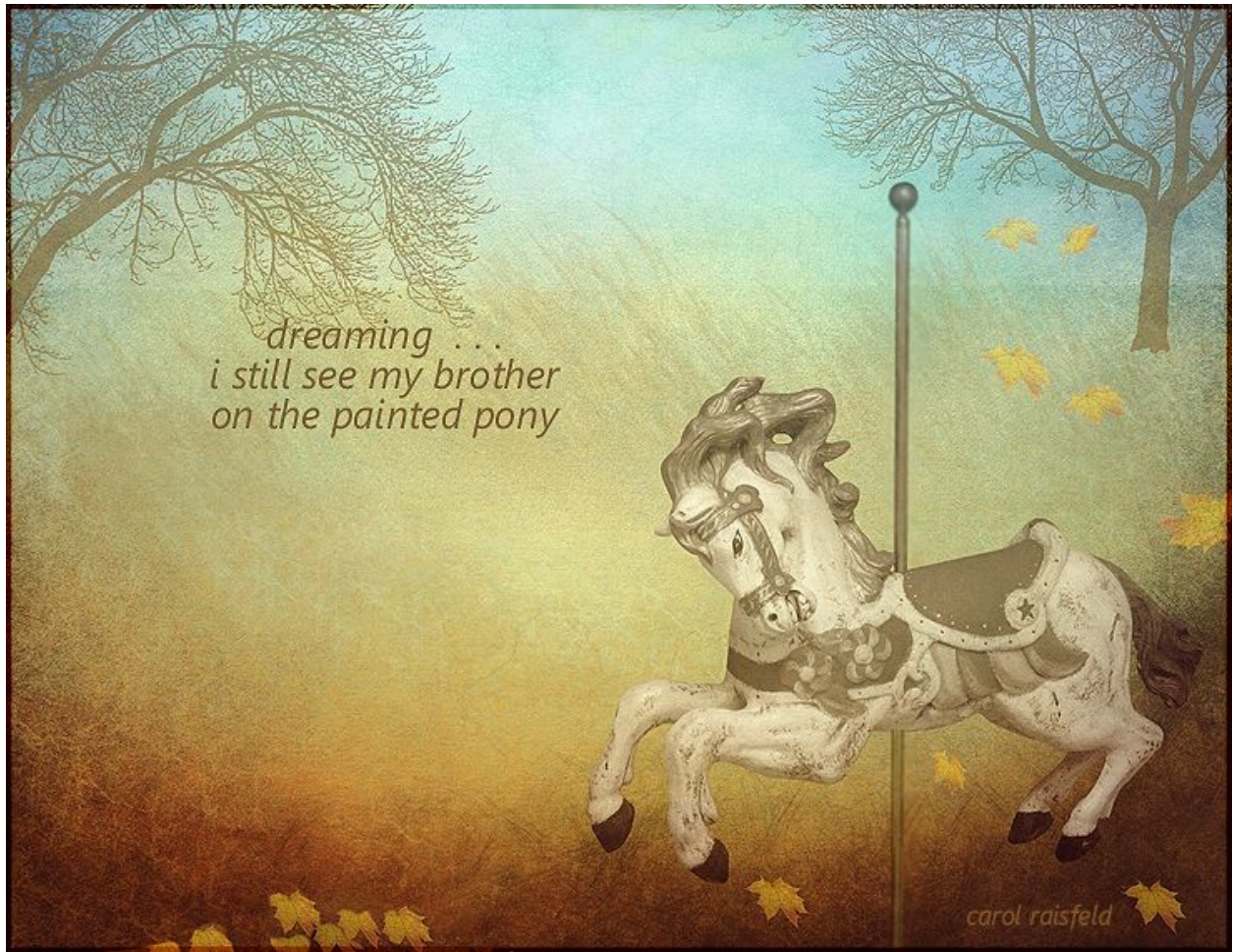
carol raisfeld



*almost midnight
mom's crochet hook
warm in my hand*

carol raisfeld





Carol Raisfeld

maculopathy -
dad sees me a stranger
on the street

spaghetti
in my father's dream
prison camp

Angiola Inglese

my kid at thirty-three
I text her childhood photos
no response

my child the attorney
I send her a long e-mail
she writes, “call me”

meal blessing
baby awed by granddad’s
fast-moving lips

John J. Han

settling fog
grandpa surrenders
his car license

mother blackleads
her kitchen fuel stove
lazy winds



Marietta McGregor

the wall of pillows
between my wife and me
paper anniversary

wedding rehearsal
a girl in red falls in love
with love

the length
of my brother's shadow ...
a dry drunk

tug of war over
I'm divorced at last
happily (n)ever after

the tangle
of weeping willows
family gossip

Chen-ou Liu

<http://chenouliu.blogspot.ca/>

sound of daddy's car
the kids abandon their play
to pick their books

caught with hand in soup
the child says he is counting
the pieces of meat

Anthony Itopa Obaro

family reunion
a strand of mother's hair
in the soup

grandpa's birthday
the last candle takes
all his breath

Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian

a day at the zoo
another family photo
at the reptile house

Noah's ark –
the fat goose
pinches my sister's cheek

Susan Beth Furst

www.intothehaikuforest.org

peace talks
my mother's voice
In the living room

Lake Victoria -
the one aunty
that always whines

marriage plate
pieces of you
pieces of me

Adrian Bouter

on a quiet lake
grandfather's fishing tales
I was hooked

Spring rose pruning
each year I feel the prick
of losing you

m. shane pruet

years add
love subtracts
the math of matrimony

billion pretty smiles
the prettiest remains
daughters'

AJ. Anwar

his letter
of half-hearted apology
lavender lemonade

Knöpflesuppe
seeking comfort in the heritage
she denied us

the slow tumble
of autumn's first leaf
couple's therapy

Kelly Sauvage Angel

grandma pulls
her mustache
one hair at a time



**family photos
from long ago
strangers...**

T J

Terrie Jacks

family reunion...
all those who changed
my diapers

dusty album...
I gently unfold
a creased smile

faded bedsheets...
my aunt claims to have
dyed the horizon

Praniti Gulyani

my daughter and i
writing to the sounds
of waves and gulls

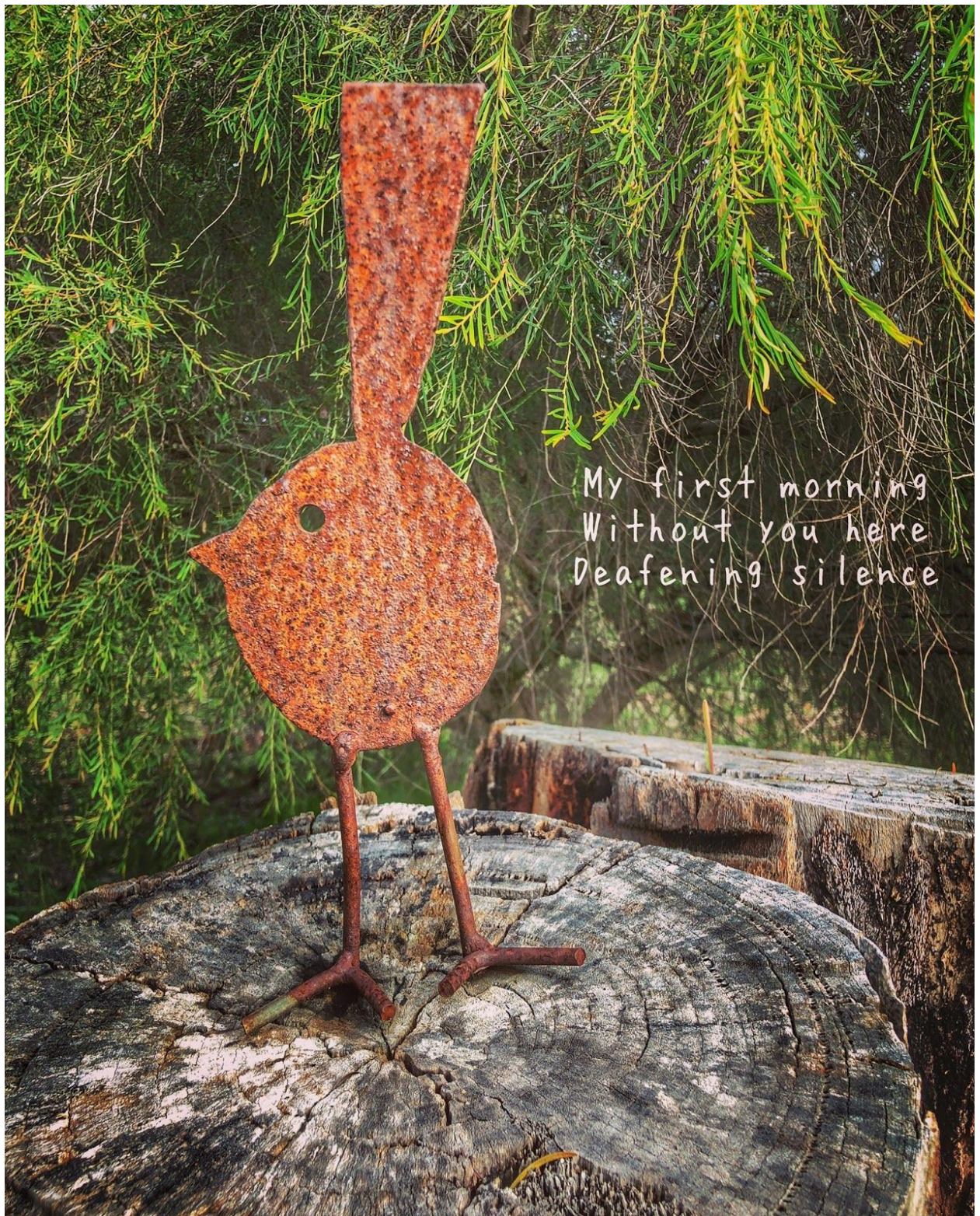
nonchalant
the gull watches
our picnic

eggs frying
we sing along with
stan rogers

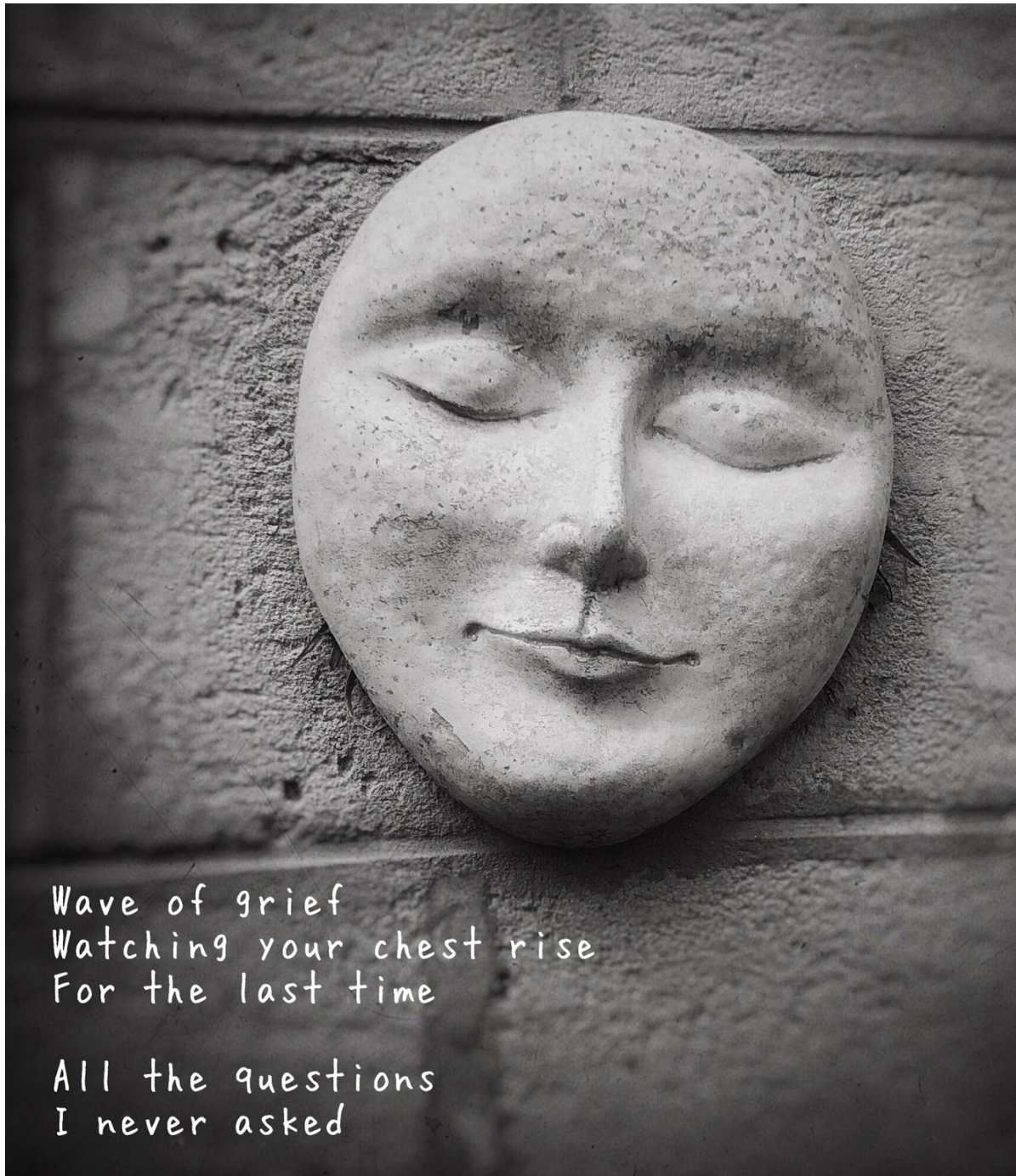
Tom Blessing

contemplating
my inner child
a butterfly





My first morning
Without you here
Deafening silence



Christy Draper

mother's urn on the shelf –
still chastising me
for not calling

zoo trip –
my grandson too short
to see the animals

Terry Macrae

almost a centenarian
dad's new hobby
collecting antique watches

the way the nurse
placed the thermometer
my mom

she straightens
her brother's wedding tie
late summer rain

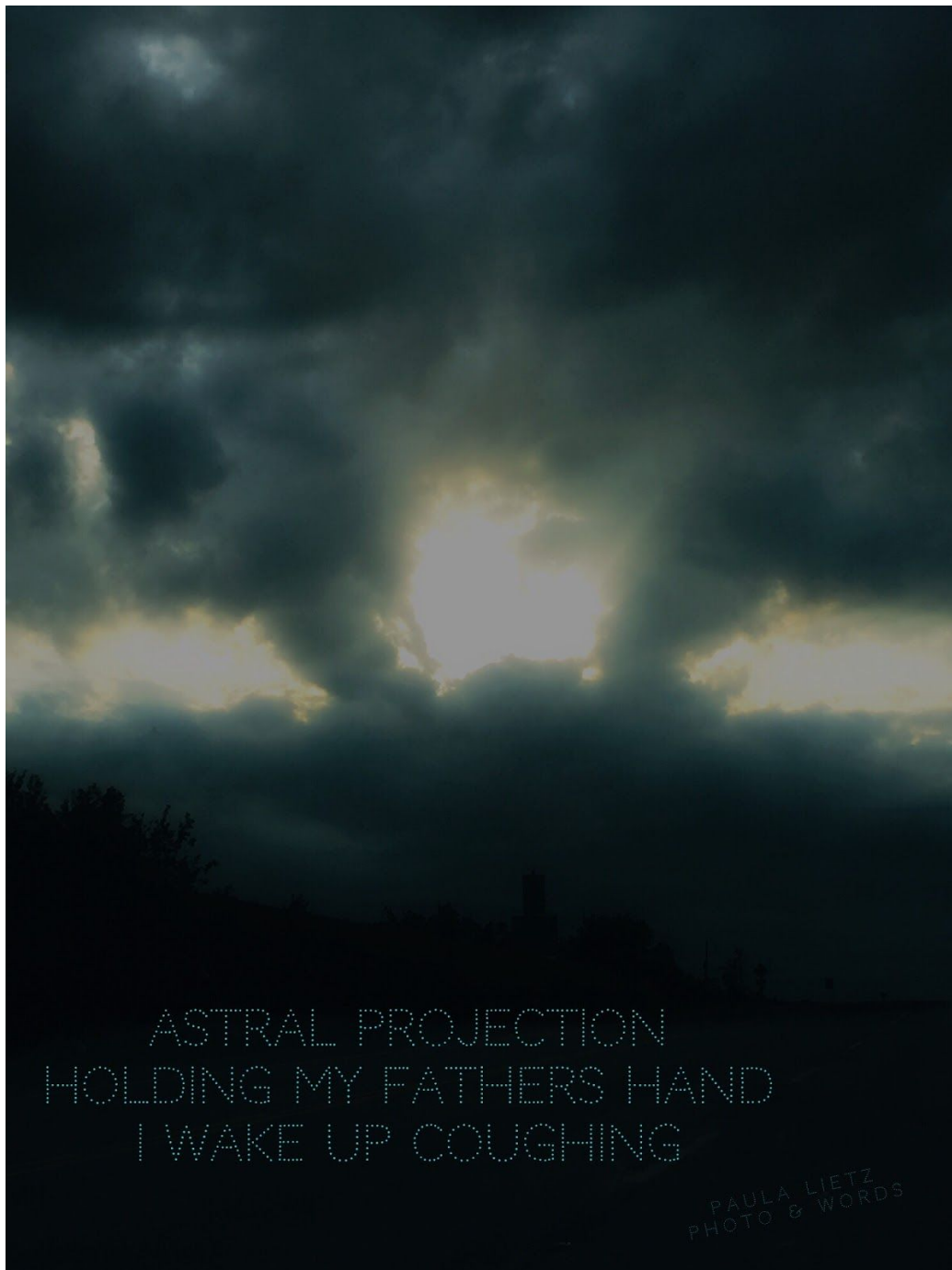
Bruce H. Feingold

crossing the bridges —
mother starts using plastic flowers
for daily prayers

daily horoscope
our mother gathers
children's planetary evils

Rashmi Vesa

numerous blows
physically and mentally
I the one asked
why did YOU let this happen
a solid punch to the gut



ASTRAL PROJECTION
HOLDING MY FATHERS HAND
I WAKE UP COUGHING

PAULA LIETZ
PHOTO & WORDS

Paula Lietz

in hospice
dad's frail chest rises
autumn leaves

breakfast with mom
at Cracker Barrel
new traditions

Claire Vogel Camargo

60th wedding anniversary
mom introduces herself
to dad

funeral preparation
an open coffin decided by
a coin toss

John J. Dunphy

uno game —
my son stares
at my credit card

family meet —
everyone eagerly chatting
on their phones

machine world . . .
i recall my mother's birthday
through phone notification

Gowtham Ganni

back from camp
my son's sudden interest
in diphthongs

fiddlehead fern
she opens up
about her stepfather

crack of a branch
somewhere in the dark wood
my childhood

jam session
the syncopated beat
of gran's spoons

mom's will
dad's wife turns up
his hearing aid

Lew Watts

my nephew!
an unripe persimmon
can hurt

adolescence –
the shadow of my father
on my steps

family dinner –
the only one to speak
the anchorman

Margherita Petriccione

all grown up
trying to fill
my mother's shoes

baby pillow
I rest my head
on grandma's bosom

sound waves
the ripples carry
grandma's laugh

laugh lines
I inherit
mama's smile

second step-dad
I finally learn
to trust men

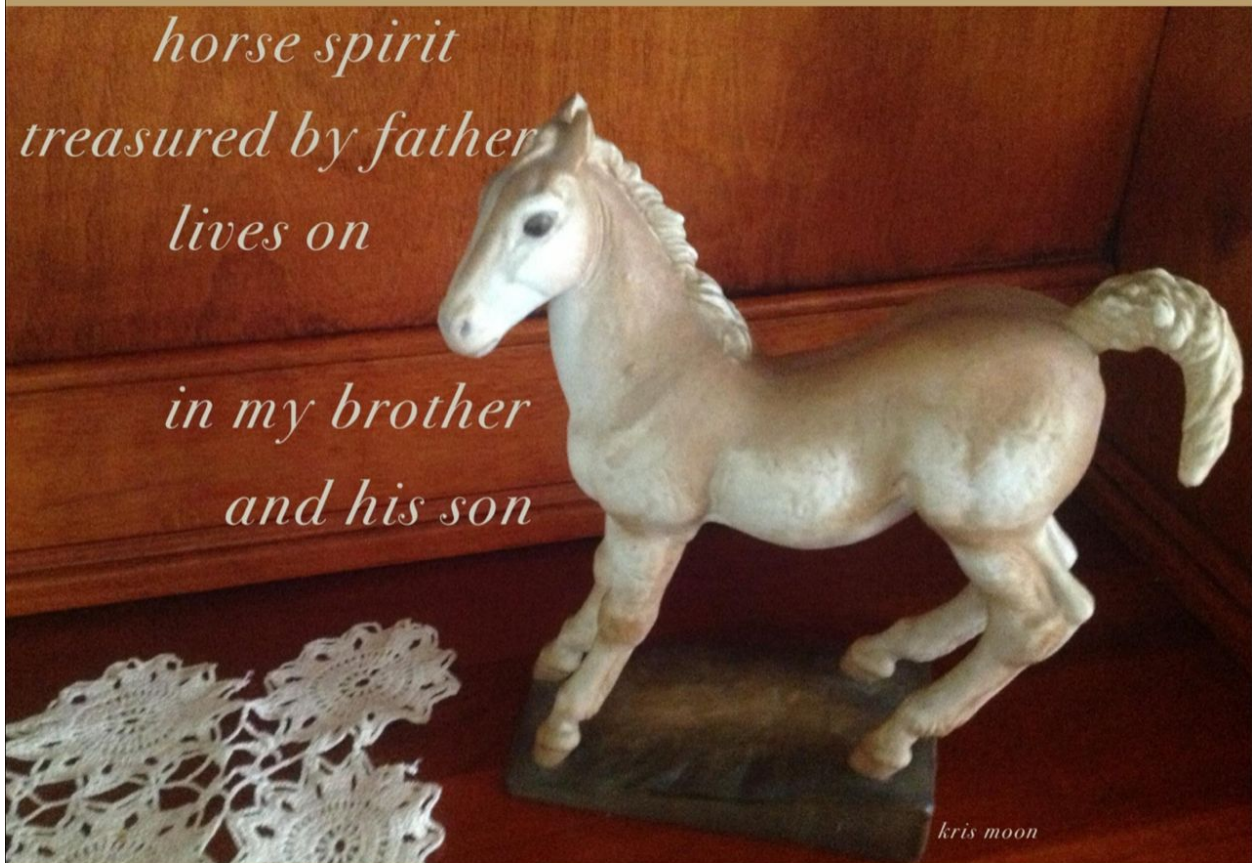
Lori A Minor

warm hug
but his kisses wet
other bosoms

Daniel Ajayi

*horse spirit
treasured by father
lives on*

*in my brother
and his son*



kris moon



peeling
back layers. . . .

one
family

§

its
stories

kris moon





Kris Moon

shimbun no hi
praying grandma's spirit
to guide my path

little koi flips —
singing to the womb
my baby kicks

forgiveness
daughter's drawn hearts
filled by rainbow

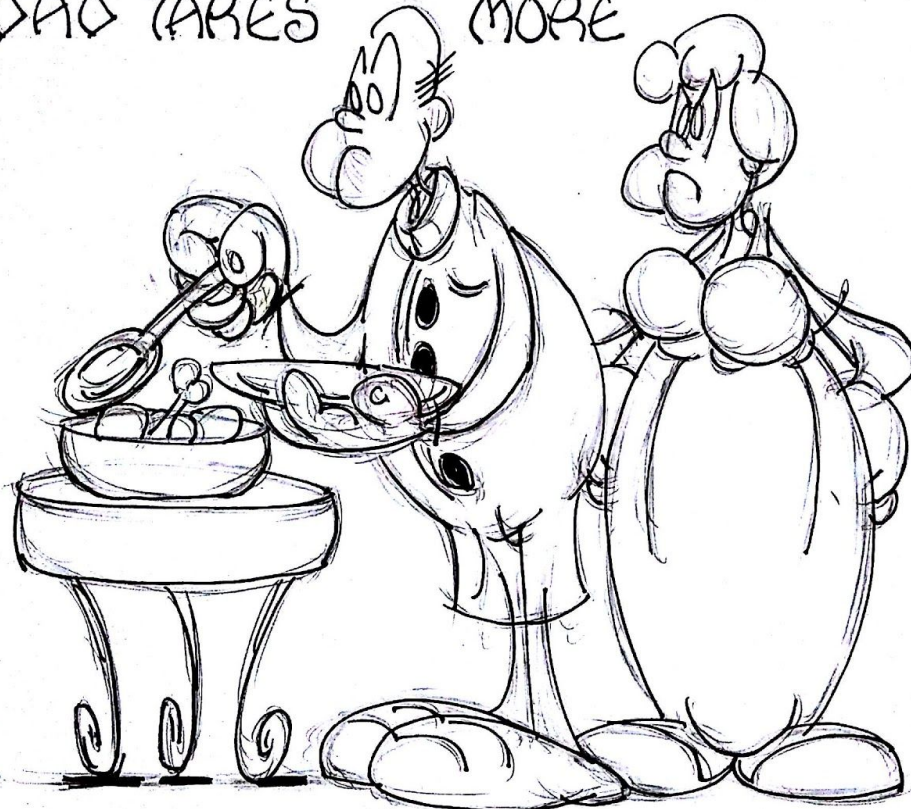
layer upon layer
my family's emotions
handmade lasagna

Lucia Fontana

SILVERWARE SHOWN
GRANDMOTHER SERVES US FOOD
ON PAPER PLATES



AT DINNER
CRITICIZING THE CHICKEN
DAD TAKES MORE





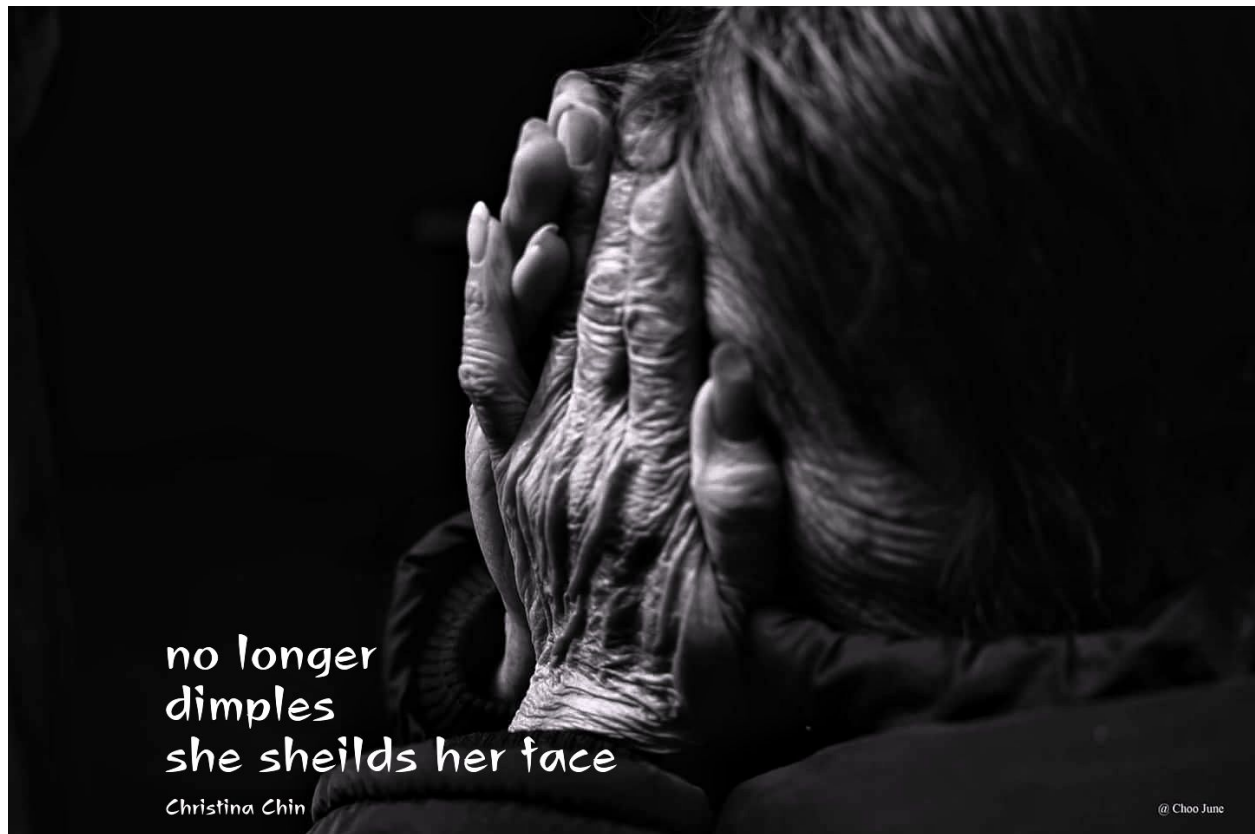
Gautam Nadkarni

my sister lifts her flute
for the first time in years
I recognize prayer

Kristyn Blessing

childhood guilt
clam squeezed tighter
in her hands





Christina Chin

corrugated roof
the shallow peaks and troughs
of life together

David J Kelly

Septic (Senryu Sequence)

‘all right thanks’
it’s all she says
my daughter

‘who are you?’
my grandson
has forgotten me

‘it looks quite red’
my true love tends
my septic toe

Paul Beech

a true story –
my uncle flavors it
with a sip of brandy

baby loosening down
on her mother's back
the tired legs of a doll

Nina Kovacic

pigeons
flying in circles
the mother I lost

Ann Schechter

my old friends:
a cup of tea
& silence

becoming an orphan
how it feels
on holidays

mama's gone
five years now
the unpacked boxes

a walk on the beach
with daddy . . .
lucky stones
and dimes
“They Gave Us Life”

standing by her
the thin dog
knows . . .
she too is hungry

red paper poppies
grandmother's hands
to mom's . . .
to mine

Jill Lange

I paint only black and white
since Patty died

Dad turned to me
and said and said and said
nothing

you know, he said, it takes
a tremendous amount of resolve
to hang oneself

Gail Wolper

money borrowed from wife
how easily I forget
in paying back

two boys in succession
wife asks if the next child
turns out a male

tug of war with my wife –
each choosing the opposite sex
as domestic help for the house

my baby daughter
pulling out her hair
at the least denial
when she actually
has few strands

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