

Six-Fold Writers Contest – Poetry

The Art of Empathy

Masks

We all pretend to know the way

We are marching. Towards something

We can't quite

Describe

My reflection in the mirror

An alien unto itself

Do I think of myself

The same way you see me?

Underneath the stage

Lies depth of ineffable fathom

So even the actor

Forgets about the climb

Its been so long, I can't recall

Excitement from my childhood

Am I all

You see?

The Invitation

Come away my young friend

Crest the hill near the bend

Moonshine lights your path

Find somewhere to store wrath

The ecstasy; free air

Among us it's all fair

They tell you your heart's bright

But I've seen under the light

There's no need for eyes wet

For the night is young yet

Choices

I know these faces

Familiar. Memories and emotions

Shape their cheeks

What happened?

It seemed just a year ago

That we all

Were so sick of home

And now we miss it

And each other

We make memories

But they aren't

Commonplace

I think I wasted

A few years

Looking for friends in a bottle

Instead of in

My life.

I hope they don't forget me

Passenger

Hand in hand we board the vessel
All our money gone; future spent
Full sails, the wind at our backs
The lightness of being while carried

The journey slows, days merging
Souls aboard grow restless and pent
The wood groans against the sea
Sincere effort clings to safety

I wish I'd told you, 'fore the launch
Sails torn and the hull is rent
We've been going in circles
Secrecy leads to mutiny

Thunder roars o'er the horizon
Lightning cracks and the frame is bent
Roiling waves consume us
Watery void knows no quarter

Now I cling onto a fragment
No inkling of where my home went
The splintered edges tender
I can't help but gather them up

Kindling

It started out as a candle
On my mother's table
The flicking bead, dancing orange
I'd pass my hand over it, unable
To catch hold

It grew when I discovered words
For myself. Greedy eyes drinking them in
I was a dragon, and novels my hoard
Precious piles of them strewn about, in love

It burned when I lost myself in green
Eyes. Voices rushed with excitement
A cell. An atom. A molecule.
We experienced heaven, rent

It blazes for me now
A bonfire that can't be extinguished
And when the clouds hide the stars
And her words pierce my ears
It keeps me warm