

## COLOPHONS: Five Poems in Different Moods

## CLOUDS LIKE COLOPHONS

Clouds like colophons hung above Longs Peak  
White and fluffy they formed clear emblems  
Signs that stood out against a background of deep azure

Two of them stood together  
Dropping in the still air above the mountain  
The morning fresh and bright  
No harbinger of things to come

That was at nine in the morning  
By twelve the clouds moved in.  
By one the storm rolled off the mountain  
Striking sparks of lightening upon the unwary  
Who enjoying their climb went above the timberline  
To the boulder field of the Diamond face

No! No! Don't go there  
Said the hikers scampering down the mountainside  
There's lightning It's dangerous  
They scurried down the hill toward a blanket of trees.

So my husband and I turned reluctantly  
Away from the beauties of Alpine plants, High air  
A platform viewing of surrounding mountains  
We trudged downhill as the hail struck  
Fierce pellets of ice knived us hard  
After twenty minutes it morphed to rain  
The dusty track turned viscous squishy  
Churning mud onto legs and trouser bottoms  
At length we came to the Ranger's hut  
That was the worst hike I've experienced  
Said my husband,  
Ever.

## SADNESS

Sadness is like

A sea of tears

A chest thrumming

An ocean of loneliness

A prickling of eyelids

An expanse of grief

A crumpling of the face

A longing for the past

A tightness at the front of the neck

A feeling of loss

A sobbing low in the throat

A great fear

Of memories

Gone.

## HOUSE FULL OF SECRETS

In the House Full of Secrets was a Conspiracy of Silence a broken home dark corners  
mysterious happenings  
things that did not make sense.

People repressed their emotions lived on the surface in the waters of forgetfulness had  
superficial relationships.

Disassociation pain grief anxiety silence walls anger rage guilt

I attempted to ascertain what was going on.

They fobbed me off.

No-one said it, but I My Feelings were not important.

I experienced slattedstairsphobiaescalatorphobiaelevatorphobiacastlestairsphobia  
claustrophobia  
agoraphobia.

I acted out developed a low tolerance for frustration became depressed—

—disappeared  
into the wallpaper  
not  
to return  
for seven years

## MOVING AWAY

I've become a different person since I moved away  
Left my home my country traveled many miles landed in a place I did not know.  
I had to learn to live life anew  
I had to create make friends seek advice start a course of study accomplish goals  
I was eager to learn snapped up every opportunity that came my way  
Down a tunnel of years I discovered surprising things about me  
I was practical  
I thrived in the real world more than...aworldofdreamsinmyhead...  
I cut deals in a freewheeling wheeler-dealer society  
I took risks

A dear friend compared me to a rose growing over a wall spreading my petals in sunshine  
And so I made myself a home in a strange land  
Found a family in my friends  
Made myself comfortable  
Like a cat

## MOODS

His conversation  
Rambles  
Down a path  
Between the trees  
Into a sunny glade  
Where it spreads its fingers

His conversation  
Rumbles  
Down a path  
Between bare rock into the boulder field where lightning sparks icy trails.

His conversation  
Turns and spins out of control  
Or  
Turns and spins  
Through various and many before coming to a  
Stop.