

FOUR AND TWENTY



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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

PATIENCE, DEAR

Scorn, scarred, stuttering with age
slow burner, steady does it
bliss is breathing so we,
we stumble, with footsteps careful

JAMES HALL

RETURN PASSAGE

Copper twilight on the hill,
an empty house breaks the skyline
like a runaway pony.

JANE RØKEN

PADDLEBOAT

Peddled paddleboat to lake's deepest,
laid perpendicular to bow and stern,
above fathomage, below firmament,
and became x axis, an origin.

JEFFREY McDONALD

FOR WINTER

We toast frosted crystal
over fireside tidings, scattered
words like the chatter of teeth
in the moments the Buick defrosts.

JASON L. HUSKEY

THE COLD RUNNER

Car headlights almost blind her
A towel around her neck keeps her warm
another dirty puddle
splashes her trainers again.

KYM WILKINSON

A NOTE ON THE TABLE

Pausing in the creek bottom
of an alder thicket
I saw.

SCOTT T. STARBUCK

AND?

what exactly is the answer
blowing in the wind?

JUDITH STEELE

CRIMES

silencing a heart
forbidding the effusive flow
no less than cutting tongue from lark,
caging wind in a cove

KAREN GARRISON

LAMP UNTO THEE

I am glass
And you are paraffin
I light the way
While at both ends you burn.

NEIL ELLMAN

WALKING TO MY MORNING CLASS

The voice of a young whore
You have enough to retire
In comfortable poverty
Give some of it to me

JOHN MCKERNAN

A RED BALLOON IN THE SKY ABOVE THE FILM FORUM

After the movie, the balloon.
We took from the sky,
a string tied around my wrist,
a balloon to pop.

AMY SCHREIBMAN WALTER



street vendors
fire crackers
smoke in the air

NINA BUCK

WHITE NIGHT

I hurl nostalgia
into a corner of my heart
feeling the weight of a night

CHEN-OU LIU

THE FEARS OF OTHERS, PT. X

I follow him into no vacancy—
steps cautious to discover
a husband ending his marriage—
watch as he sleeps alone.

JASON L. HUSKEY

NAKED ORANGES

Like two naked oranges,
we stripped off our rinds:
yours, one perfect spiral;
mine, a mound of small wet scraps.

GABRIEL GADELY

WEEDS

becoming the stubble
upon your dead face
and we evacuate the city
like redundant teardrops

TOM PINE

LOST

His kiss falls upon her velvet cheek.
Another goodbye she does not comprehend.
Their golden years tarnished and lost.

M. ELAINE MOORE

MANIC

Madness and mayhem
Mood swinging like a pendulum
Mind rooted in delirium
Mangled words forming my anthem

KAVITA RAO

LISTED UNDER N — THE NOMAD

Numerous scratched-out entries
in my address book.

The peripatetic product
of professional peripeteias.

Ivo DRURY

UNITED STORY LINE

Our lives flow from our ink,
not written over each other,
but ink flowing into ink,
to form one line.

LARRY HUMPHRIES

CANARY

It was right around the time
of the birth of modernism.

The other noise was rain,
squeezed from fresh hearts.

HOWIE GOOD

NATURE SHOW

choreography
of kangaroo

JOANNE MERRIAM

MONARCH

Monarch, orange above
black spot on hind-wing vein,
alights on a horse-chestnut blade,
flutters

JOHN GREY

WATERCOLOR

The weight of new life is heavy
beneath black soil; my iris
garden dreams in pastels,
black pistils for eyes.

MARGARET GISH MILLER

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BIOS

This month's cover art is, "Artist's Table," by **Kirsten Cliff**. Kirsten's creative time has recently been concentrated on a collection of haiga (haiku with images). Her photography has featured on the cover of *Valley Micropress* (New Zealand) and in the pages of *Bravado* (New Zealand).

Kirsten's website: kirstencliffwrites.blogspot.com

Nina Buck is an actress and writer. Her poetry has recently appeared in several journals, including *Bear Creek Haiku*, *Paper Wasp*, *A handful of stones*, and *6S*. Nina lives in Hawaii most of the time.

Ivo Drury lives, loves, reads, and writes in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Neil Ellman is a retired educator living and writing in New Jersey. His poems appear in numerous print and online journals throughout the world, as well as in five chapbooks based on works of modern art. One, "Monet," has already appeared in *Four and Twenty*.

Gabriel Gadfly is a poet and part-time librarian living and writing in Montevallo, Alabama.

Gabriel's website: gabrielgadfly.com

Karen Garrison, a writer from the Denver, Colorado, area, has had work accepted by *New Verse News*, *The Battered Suitcase*, and *The Sun*.

John Grey is an Australian born poet, but a US resident since the late seventies. He has recently been published in *Connecticut Review*, *Alimentum*, and *Writer's Bloc* with work upcoming in *Pennsylvania English*, *Prism International*, and *The Great American Poetry Show*.

Jason L. Huskey is a multitasking office tech from Virginia. His work has appeared in a few dozen journals. He is working on his first chapbook.

Jason's website: jasonlhuskey.wordpress.com

Howie Good is the author of a full-length poetry collection, *Lovesick*, and twenty-two print and digital poetry chapbooks. With Dale Wisely, he is the co-founder of White Knuckle Press (www.whiteknucklepress.com).

James Hall is a twenty-three year old flash-fiction writer whose work has organically turned toward poetry. He performs at open mic evenings across the East Midlands area of England and has a strong passion for music.

James's website: spikedwords.wordpress.com

Larry Humphries is new to writing, having written his first poem in July 2010. Larry was recently published in the anthology, *Landscape of the Dream*, and is a returning author in *Four and Twenty*. He currently resides in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Chen-ou Liu is a freelance writer. His poems have appeared in *Four and Twenty, Ribbons, Modern English Tanka, Gusts, Magnapoets, Simply Haiku,* and *Concise Delight*.

Chen-ou's website: ericcoliu.blogspot.com

Jeffrey McDonald writes poetry and short stories from his home in Brooklyn, New York.

Jeffery's website: www.millionheadedmule.com

John McKernan is a retired comma herder. He lives in West Virginia, where he edits *ABZ Press*. His most recent book is *Resurrection of the Dust*.

Joanne Merriam is a Nova Scotian living in Nashville, Tennessee. Her short poems have appeared in *Alba, Amaze, Roadrunner Haiku Journal,* and *Scifaikuest*.

Joanne's website: joannemerriam.com

M. Elaine Moore, a North Carolina Fiction writer and poet, has several poems published in *The Island Breeze*, an Outer Banks publication. She has completed one novel and is currently at work on another.

Margaret Gish Miller of Independence, Oregon, is an Oregon State Poetry Association member working on her first chapbook. It will include poems published in *Verseweavers, Poets & Writers, Paterson Literary Review,* and elsewhere.

Tom Pine writes from Stoke-on-Trent, UK, a place full of poems yet to be written.

Tom's website: burslemisbohemia.wordpress.com

Kavita Rao, an MBA graduate, is an amateur poet aspiring to have her poem book published soon. Her work has been featured in online literary collectives Like Birds Lit and One Stop Poetry.

Kavita's website: kavisionz.wordpress.com

Jane Røken is Norwegian and lives in Denmark. She has only recently begun sending her English writings out into the world. So far, her works have appeared in *Poor Mojo's Almanac(k)* and *Phantom Kangaroo*.

Amy Schreibman Walter lives in London, where she studies at The Faber and Faber Poetry Academy. She has had poems published in several online and in-print literary magazines and is currently working on her first pamphlet of poems.

Scott T. Starbuck's chapbook, *The Warrior Poems*, a finalist at the 2009 Pudding House Chapbook Contest, features protest poems about human rights, animal rights, media distortions, Iraq War, and sour economy. It is available at jen@puddinghouse.com.

Judith Steele of South Australia is co-author of poetry in *Fighting Monsters*, twice winner of the Northern Territory's Red Earth Poetry Prize, has been published in *Gobshite Quarterly USA*, and in Australian journals and websites.

Kym Wilkinson from just outside London, UK, is just starting out in poetry. She enjoys the quatrain genre and takes inspiration from her family. This is her first time being published.