

FOUR AND TWENTY

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WHAT STORMS MAY COME

I have discarded
the long-held belief
that waves crash
one at a time.

MARIE ELENA GOOD

BANDIT

suet-cake, wired to bird-feeder
knocked askew—
lurking nearby
squirrel fabricates an alibi

JOSEPH SCHRADER

TIRED VILLANELLE

One rhyme in one tercet's enough
to build a simple dénouement.
Regarding all that other stuff,
it's “blah blah blah.”

D. BRIAN CRAIG

BOXING IN

People like confectionary
The self-centered hard to gnaw
The soft too easy to indulge
The nutty mainly gone first

ANTHONY WARD

DROWNING WORMS

catfish, safe by a whisker
bluegill regrettably undersized
grilled-cheese supper again

JOSEPH SCHRADER

MOON PATHS

My feet follow music's ribbon,
Transcending Earth's confining gravity well,
To dance among stars, moons,
Each uniquely mine for now.

CLAUDETTE J. YOUNG

LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

If you wanted black beans and rice
the native dish was always good
no matter where you went to eat.

LOUIS SLEE



glistening morning dew
on rose petals ready to unfold,
beads of sweat covering skin —
the dawning of bodies efflorescent

LINDA HOFKE

THE NEST IN MY EARS

Red egg inside the broken drum,
love child of irritations and regrets,
lives in between —
wind felt but not heard.

STACY POST

*

moo(d/n) ring ...
your voice a compass
of nightsong I fold
into a thousand footsteps

KATHY UYEN NGUYEN

THOSE IMMORTAL SIGNS

At whose instance
a brown pigeon glides towards a closed window,
makes you wish the shutters would open?

KUSHAL PODDAR

SHASTINA MORNING

The earth thunders eastward
Pink and mauve spread west
Turn yellow and orange
Above slate and blue of silence.

RICHARD HARGIS



WHY NOBODY REALLY CARES ABOUT YOUR POEMS

because they're about you

AARON CRIPPEN



BROKEN-DOWN CAR, IN THE PARKING LOT

a toothbrush
tasting like cigarettes
overcast sky

LUCAS STENSLAND



FOR RON

On a cold night, a single car passes
down a quiet street.

Darkness rests behind the
passing taillights.

DAN FITZGERALD



ONION

peel her slowly
layers shed,
heart laid out raw.
of course there will be tears.

DE JACKSON



TRACY McGRADY

an eye on his knee
he waxes injured, late star
squeeze dry the teabag

AARON CRIPPEN

2/12

the body is
impulse
cilia
and my mother's DNA

ALEXANDRA FOX

MICROCOSM

She's comfortable with fewer words.
Where the meaning depends,
and the world spins
in the simple absence of a period

JONATHAN BATTEAS



I COULDN'T SEE HER BLUSH

Through her burqua,
onto her feet,
a half-eaten lolipop falls.

TEAGUE O'KEEFE



morning freshness ...
broccoli in
her basket

HEMA RAVI

PREACHERMAN

He stands in the pulpit
And talks about God
I'm moved to hug him and
Kiss his sweet preaching lips

LINDA MARABLE MCDADE

富士山

After the clearest of wins
I gave his marble back
while his sister hid wounds in her sleeves

JANET LYN

APRICOTS

Head on pillows piled high
Crisp knife creased white cotton
Beware the soft scent of apricots
Whispered introduction to final exhalation

PEARL KETOVER PRILIK

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This month's cover image, "Radio Waves," is by **Dale Patterson**. Dale is a visual artist and writer living in Indiana. His work has appeared in *Right Hand Pointing*, *Blackheart Magazine*, *Clutching at Straws*, *Main Street Rag*, and *Iodine*. | dalepattersonart.com

Jonathan Batteas is a poet, living in the heartland of America. | pasceverbo.com

D. Brian Craig is a native of Michigan. His work's appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Pitkin Review*, *Fickle Muses*, and *Borderline*. He is currently studying for his MFA in creative writing at Goddard College, Vermont.

Aaron Crippen is a poet and translator living in Beijing. His awards include a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and the PEN Texas Literary Award for Poetry.

Dan Fitzgerald resides in Pontiac, Illinois. He worked a long time in the printing insudety, and is currently employed in the meat and bakery departments of a local grocer. He has been published in *Poetalk*, *Nomads Choir*, *Writers' Journal*, and *The Advocate*.

Alexandra C Fox is a girl, trying to be a writer, actress, or both. She lives in either California or Colorado, and this is her first published poem. She is happy.

Marie Elena Good passionately blogs with Buffalo poet Walter Wojtanik. Their mission: propagate poetry and the poets who pose it. Features include Sunday morning prompts, forms, interviews, and more. | poeticbloomings.com

Richard Hargis ventured into eastern poetry with his *Sidhe*, a “haiku-in-sequence,” in *San Diego State’s Phoenix*. A second novel, *The Red Nightingale*, is now in print.

Linda Hofke lives in Germany. Her most recent work has been featured or upcoming in *MiCrow*, *Bolts of Silk*, *Jellyfish Whispers*, and *The Fib Review*. | lind-guistics.blogspot.de

De Jackson is a parent, a poet, and a Pro Crastinator. She pens tiny poems in margins in turquoise pen, and breathes best with inky fingers and salty sea-soaked toes.

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Linda Marable McDade lives on Pensacola Beach. Her poems *Mania* and *Ashlyn’s lizard* appeared in previous *Four and Twenty* publications

Kathy Uyen Nguyen is a Vietnamese-American poet whose work has appeared in publications such as *Lishanu*, *Pay Attention: A River of Stones*, and *Take 5: Best Contemporary Tanka*. She is a student nurse and enjoys origami, running, yoga, watching films, and journaling. | alotus-poetry.livejournal.com | [@alotus_poetry](https://www.instagram.com/alotus_poetry)

Teague O’Keefe has his inkwell in County Cork, Ireland, and his quill in Multnomah County, Oregon.

Kushal Poddar, A native of Kolkata, India, writes poetry, fiction, and scripts for television mini-series. He is published worldwide. He is the author of *All Our Fictional Dreams*.

Stacy Post, a native Hoosier and librarian, resides in the flatlands with her husband and three children. Her poetry has appeared in *Pearl*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *Referential Magazine*, *Every Day Poets*, and *Skylark*.

Dr. Pearl Ketover Prilik, psychoanalyst, is a published author of three books. Her poetry and short fiction appear in print and online. She is an editor/contributor of two international anthologies. She can be found at “Imagine.” | drpkp.com

Hema Ravi’s writing has won prizes in the *Femina*, *Khalee Times* (Dubai) and *International Indian*. She has published in *The Hindu*, *Metverse Muse*, *Roots and Wings*, *The Fancy Realm*, *Matruvani*, and *Holistic Mediscan*.

Joe Schrader is a retired Michigan policeman who now calls Hillsboro, Oregon home. He scribbles poetry and short stories and is an avid reader. | joes-poems.com

Lucas Stensland co-authored *my favorite thing* (bottle rockets press, 2011), which was shortlisted for the Touchstone Distinguished Book Award. His poems have appeared in publications such as *Frogpond*, *Modern Haiku*, *Roadrunner*, and *Prune Juice*.

Anthony Ward has been published in a number of literary magazines including *Enhance*, *Word Gumbo*, *Drunk Monkeys*, *Speech Therapy*, *Thousand Shades of Grey*, *Ginger Piglet*, *Torrid Literature Journal*, and *The Rusty Nail*.

Louis Slee began writing poetry at seventeen. Now after a long career as a journalist and editor of an aerospace magazine, he's finally beginning to submit his work. Currently living in New Jersey, he calls Colombia his second home.

Claudette J. Young is an avid writer, mixed genre, and loves exploring poetry. She plays with words for fun, having others read them is dessert. Having others like them is Heaven.

Four and Twenty is an online poetry journal focused on short form poetry. We specifically seek out fresh and emerging voices to include in the journal. Our guidelines are simple. All poems must be four lines or fewer in length and contain no more than twenty words (hence, Four and Twenty). A new issue of the journal is released the third Tuesday of each month.

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