

FOUR AND TWENTY

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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.



Hammock—
sifting through diamond latticework
December snow

DIANE WEBSTER

ANSWERS

as corrosive as water
dripping in the sink
late into the night—
these prayers

J. LYNN SHERIDAN

PRIESTS OF AUDUBON

The ornithologists of your soul
Are following its deft flight.

CATHERINE SIMPSON

THE WITCH

Thinking myself Hansel,
I followed your trail of kisses,
forgetting where that fable leads.

E. L. SCHMITT

TREES IN THE WINDOW

Snow and rain, rain and snow
dressing then undressing
winter-bare trees

CD SINEX

THE BLACK BAG

The black plastic bag
got caught on the branch
of a tree, the wind turned it in-
to a crow before it let go.

ADRIAN FOX

*

Cuneiform remarks
on my snowy windowsill—
black-capped chickadee.

INA ROY-FADERMAN

TO WAKE

Daybreak suddenly
upon your face, small kisses —
skipping stones teasing
a stilled lake to wake.

MARILYN BRAENDEHOLM

FOR MY HUSBAND

I sleep on the left side of our bed,
so you will know
what it's like to be right.

PAMELA VANDALL

*

death of a bird
in playful flight
invisible window

JACQUELINE MERCKENSCHLAGER

SUNY LIBRARY (ALBANY, 1972)

near silence—
turning pages punctuate
paragraphs of
humming lights

CD SINEX

MYSTERIOUS GIRL

Sweet Mercy

Allow me to taint your innocence

By dancing in

December's frozen lake

WILBERT MELENDEZ

HAIKU

with neither first nor last lines

MICHAEL C. RUSH

THE SHORTCUT

Taking the shortcut home
across a rock-hard pond.
From the bank, crows
voice their disbelief.

*

Rain blackened tarmac
A litter of leaves swept
into battle by the wind

MARILYN BRAENDEHOLM

IT'S A CATHOLIC THING

lying on my back
popping Triscuits into my mouth
murmuring “Body of Christ”
emergency salvation

REBECCA BEAUCHAMP

SECRET

He sleeps in an urn and
Pictures taped inside
Bibles, dates written underneath.
A part of her sleeps there.

JAMES PATRICK RISER

LIGHTHOUSE

a darkening sky and darker sea
crimson and purple clouds
lay east and west of a tiny light
flashing citrine

SIMON HANSON



Snow blowing
against my window pane—
white noise
erases the silence

CD SINEX

WINTER COMES ON

Sidewalk cracks
strand the shallow trickles
where a silver-haired frost
silently wreaks.

JANE DAVITT HEWEY

OUT OF THE DARKNESS

wave on wave sweeps
the beach in washes of silver
rushing out ~ thousands of stars
disappear into the sand

SIMON HANSON

*

One windy instant
snow draped on evergreen limb
falls to dust

DIANE WEBSTER

LONELINESS

I realize I still have your can opener
and I'm not
giving it back

H. C. KELLOGG

TEN MILLION GLANCES

into the darkness of the well
looking down ~ looking up
back and forth
at the speed of light

SIMON HANSON

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Rebecca Beauchamp has always had a love affair with words and is currently working on a collection of short stories. She lives in Maryland.

Marilyn Braendeholm lives in the UK surrounded by grapevines, bubbling sourdough starter, fermenting vinegar, a Springer Spaniel, and keeps a camera in her pocket. She never buys clothing without pockets.

Adrian Fox is a poet/painter from Kent, England, living in northern Ireland. He holds a master degree in poetry from Lancaster and the Poets House Donegal. He teaches poetry online at www.adrianfox.org.

Simon Hanson lives in rural South Australia. He enjoys imagistic poetry and haiku, is published in *A Hundred Gourds*, *Heron's Nest*, *Eucalypt*, *Shamrock*, *Presence* and *Windfall*, and has a collection titled *Glowing in the Dark*.

Jane Davitt Hewey sculpts poems and essays atop an eighty-year-old oak table built by her great-grandfather. She lives in Seattle, Washington, and wakes up to beauty several times a day.

H. C. Kellogg is a dishwasher, a delivery driver, and also a high school history teacher. None of this eclipses his life as a poet. He has been published before in *Four and Twenty* and also other less reputable publications.

Jacqueline Merckenschlager has had her environmentally and socially inspired poetry published in a number of anthologies and magazines in Australia. She hopes some of her work will outlive her.

James Patrick Riser is the author of *Syndrome*, a horror fiction novella published by Wild Child Publishing. His short fiction has been featured in the online magazine, *Necrotic Tissue*, and his poetry has been published in *Pif Magazine*.

Ina Roy-Faderman, MD-PhD., is a mother, spouse, professor, and coffee drinker. Her work has appeared in *Pif Magazine*, *Writer's Digest*, and *Right Hand Pointing*. She's planning on getting sleep real soon now. | www.inourbooks.com

Michael C. Rush currently splits his time between northern Arizona and upstate New York. He has recently published or forthcoming poems in *Penumbra Magazine*, *The Istanbul Review*, *Scholars & Rogues Literary Review*, and *Picayune Magazine*.

E. L. Schmitt is a student at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is Assistant Editor of *Sagebrush Review*, and has recently been published in *Monkeys with Typewriters*.

J.lynn Sheridan poems and writes in the Chain O' Lakes area of northern Illinois, where she lives with her scruffy construction-guy husband and children—but she'd rather live in an old hardware store.

Catherine Simpson is a cellist who lives in Santa Barbara. She has been previously published in the *Big River Poetry Review*, *Right Hand Pointing*, *Spectrum*, *Step Away Magazine*, and *Into the Teeth of the Wind*.

CD Sinex lived in rural Hokkaido (Japan's northernmost island) for twenty years. His poems have appeared on *The Icebox* (Kyoto, Japan), *Every Day Poets*, *Contemporary Haibun On-Line*, among others. He currently lives in the Pacific Northwest.

Pamela Vandall is a poet who resides on Gabriola Island with her husband and two children. She likes writing about herself in the third person as it makes her feel very important.

Diane Webster's challenge as a poet is to remain open to writing opportunities in everyday life, to those rare epiphany moments when they arrive, and then to write with a different perspective. Her work has appeared in *Illya's Honey*, *Old Red Kimono*, *Philadelphia Poets*, and other literary magazines.

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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