

whiptail: journal of the single line poem

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The Memory Keeper

by Melanie April

WITH BIRDSONG BETWEEN

dreams she conceals winter chrysanthemum

-Pravat Kumar Padhy, India

cherry blossoms one by one she lets go the many times she curls into her own shadow

-Lakshmi Iyer, India

womanbornunbornrebornwoman

-Alvin B. Cruz, Philippines

first time in bed church bells lingering

-*Victor Ortiz, USA*

holding your hand the double dog dareness of it all

- Anette Chaney, USA

two slices of bread with birdsong between

- Hemapriya Chellappan, India

scissoring dusk moths locate this body

- Cherie Hunter Day, USA

rising tide is it possible to love them both

- M. R. Defibaugh, USA

a cesspool of sin the soul within me

- Raghav Prashant Sundar, India

too hot by gaslight I turn to a parliament of birds

- Alan Summers, UK

WORDS INTO FLOWERS

who I am the body contours who I am not

- *Pravat Kumar Padhy, India*

a universe inside the singularity of not knowing

- *Agnes Eva Savich, USA*

acres of wildflowers holding on to my maiden name

- *Antoinette Cheung, Canada*

first raindrops end the longing for my native hills

- *Daya Bhat, India*

she rattled loose wild into wind a shell clinging to a tree

- *Jessica Whipple, USA*

amaryllis wombs no longer their own

- *Cherie Hunter Day, USA*

learning to become no one firefly

- *Deborah A. Bennett, USA*

another adolescent secret she's free of sea glass

- *Dan Schwerin, USA*

stinging nettle I deadname myself

- *Rowan Beckett, USA*

winter night trying hard to form words into flowers

- *John Pappas, USA*

THE OTHER SIDE OF &

bending the taste of spinal fluid

- *M. R. Defibaugh, USA*

inside the tremors a bellbird

- *Tim Roberts, New Zealand*

tethered patient dance of the milligrams

- *Lorraine Pester, USA*

ipeccac leaves the years I didn't deserve food

- *Joshua St. Claire, USA*

downward (dog) spirals the other side of &

- *Kathy Uyen Nguyen, USA*

giving shape to my disability sea foam

- *Daniela Misso, Italy*

cognitive immobility the heaviness of masala chai

- *Geethanjali Rajan, India*

rewriting half my saijiki burn scars

- Mariel Herbert, USA

touching the old scar sun in the red oak leaves

- Deborah A. Bennett, USA

I limp through the muck of miracles to find you and instead the swans

- Sara Kass Eifler, USA

REALITY ENTERS FROM THE BACK

black dog I seek to silence the bark and bite

- *Tracy Davidson, UK*

my pacing calabash calabash

- *Kati Mohr, Germany*

rock and roll moments with mother :: death rattle

- *Tracy Davidson, UK*

is to was father's passing

- *Rowan Beckett, USA*

a rainbow the day you became rain

- *Marcie Wessels, USA*

a little white casket reality enters from the back

- *Dan Schwerin, USA*

mule deer slowly leaving her bones behind

- *John Pappas, USA*

the end of mourning neelakurinji

- *Akhila Mohan CG, India*

sunrise sea water swirls his ashes at my ankles

- *Margaret Walker, USA*

the idea of you feathers away from me as time passes

- *Katherine E Winnick, UK*

TO INSERT WHAT'S MISSING

during cosplay a late othering

- *jim kacian, USA*

but who can heal me every cloud passes by

- *Minal Sarosh, India*

tree pose breathing swaying holding swaying

- *Peggy Hale Bilbro, USA*

winter rain letting him cry freely

- *Srinivas S, India*

Friday morning's ink bleeding sky the scuppered lily

- *Owen Bullock, Australia*

any moment now i art

- *Raghav Prashant Sundar, India*

all my faults shimmer of salmon scales

- *Aidan Castle, USA*

I sing opal glass: seed, bud, open chalice

- *Jo Balistreri, USA*

dusk deepens the half-truths in my first haiku

- *Antoinette Cheung, Canada*

birdsong a series of carets to insert what's missing

- *Michael Nickels-Wisdom, USA*

BRIDGE TO THE INFINITE

streetcar raspberries in winter

- *Kelly Moyer, USA*

slip knot what I meant for us

- *Michele Root-Bernstein, USA*

she says she's leaving each sobralia bloom in just one day

- *m shane pruet, USA*

inter alia a footnote for every transgression

- *Shloka Shankar, India*

parting the shadows between her fingers and mine

- *Kathryn Liebowitz, USA*

sorting your odds from my ends

- *Peter Newton, USA*

memories i've lost especially raindrops

- *Sandi Pray, USA*

mariposa syllables flit out of my mouth

- *Scott Wiggerman, USA*

a piercing call deep in the reeds are you also lost in this floating world like a dream

- *Ryland Shengzhi Li, USA*

a thread of gossamer between two reeds this bridge to the infinite

- *Jenny Ward Angyal, USA*

EMERGING LIGHT

light through the cracks

vacation planning an albatross
hybrid family alligator wrestling new dynamics
fishing line moments of joy breaking free
roller coaster riding mood swings in the dark
even the mice are phony grand façade
the fear of drowning these rain-bedraggled worms
reflecting egret barely cracks the surface pool
sifting gold to mend the breaks kintsugi

- *m shane pruett, USA*

Emergence

back-to-back another disagreement
still not ready to drive home stubble field
after the divorce I hear only robins
two months single my spirits lifting mayflies
returning the elm's hole still empty promises

- *Lew Watts, USA*

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