Ideals: May 1- June 20 V Unity Mag. aug. 19-

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Glenna Holloway 913 E. Bailey Rd. Naperville IL 60565 9. Miniature Poem More Than a Haiku

3RD PLICE

MORE THAN A HAIKU

Defying isolation
from its seamless frame
of sea and sky, a lone tern
plies the fog-primed canvas
with no beginning, no end.
A composition of one breath
meaning nothing, meaning all.
Everything in time and context
rises from here.



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10 ---

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1. PREE VERGE ANNIVERSARY, DRIVING, a

2ND HM

ANNIVERSARY, DRIVING THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

Laying aside the laptop you insisted I bring, I home back to your face, gaze at your image, your hands on the wheel.

The blue of your eyes matches the Pacific; the blues behind mine are color-coded like flow charts.

Watching you scan the visuals scrolling from the road, I long to know what things you save and what you delete.

Mountain graphs interface with sun. Make us a copy. Smile me warm, smile us synchrony. My data banks have space for more than cryptics and fractions.

Beauty should never be a lonely route.

Be keyed with whole realities, natural and animate: waves straining on tiptoe to rake the tops of seastacks, yearling elk trumpeting in the fir forest, aspens learning green.

Input the deep green of my irises, the russet of my hair.

Memory me again with April verbs, unstress my shade with lavender, the sound and taste of azure. Program us for being and to be. Gentle your touch, your time. Process all your softest wares and words through me. BLENNA HOLLOWAY Q13 E. BAILEY RD. NAPERVILLE IL 60565 630/983-5499

5. LYRIC POEM MISSIVE FROM A KNIGHT

2ND PLICE

MISSIVE FROM A KNIGHT

Afar from wintry wills and goading gales of home, remembrance conjures nothing warm among those sleety isles but your small hand.

I crave a dreamless sleep from dusk to dawn, bone-weary as my mount. He carried me too long today, caparisoned in silk and silver, rider fully armored, armed with sword and blazoned shield, escutcheoned boasts to mean-eyed peasants idling by the road.

My love, your token prods my flagging heart beneath this vest of mail, else it would stop. Despair invades our camp. The men are faint from lack of proper food. This quest may be as holy as the Grail but hope has fled. Disease has claimed another friend, my squire, and three more horses. Visors hide our fear

the Lord has turned His back. The king grows old. And what of noble visions? Dreams that lacked the substance to sustain them? Faithless queen and bannered halls no warriors have won, now slowly coated in heraldic rust?

My dreams are not of Avalon but you.
My last chimera lurks between my vow
and you. With that, truth's champion am I.
Yes, I will keep my oath-- but you are why.

RETRO: OGGIE CONVINCES THE EGGIE

IST HM

RETRO: OGGIE CONVINCES THE EGGIE

Sadly learned she was a hiker. Yet he couldn't help but like 'er.

Disinclined to prolonged walking, He relied on lengthy talking.

Sent her sonnets, roses, books, Wrote an essay on her looks.

Unimpressed, she took her leave, Left his heart stuck to his sleeve.

She preferred the trail-shod jocks, Not square scholars in black socks.

Certain they had mated psyches, He went out and bought some Nikes.

Then he chanced to overhear it: "She likes after-dinner spirits."

So he pled for one more date, Found the means to celebrate.

Changed his modus operandi, Served his pitches topped with brandy.

She agreed to end his strife, Run life's gamut as his wife.

Ogden Nash would have his snicker--Now the nerd knows liquor's quicker.

Aged Shuew

BIOGRAPHER FOR THE BELDAM

Like sanctified relics of old despots who sold their bottled bathwater and tears to their subjects, and enshrined their shed hairs in gold casks,

her words are preserved in their own resinous venom. Some strange chemistry keeps them firm and precise as delivered while the mouth that mints them shrivels like a drawstring purse.

His famous pen bides its time.
His sleep is no longer troubled.
Knowing there are rich collectors of such bibelots, he waits, covertly smiling, watching
for the fossil wasp
enhance the price of amber.



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) rice!

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DAM ALLANM.

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July idets

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A QUESTION OF DIRECTION

"How was your trip to Milwaukee?" I asked Jane as we tucked into our bagels and cream cheese at the Foxy Lox. "Did you find that nifty restaurant I told you about?"

"Well, not exactly," said Jane. "Hal and I went round and round about it?"

"Why did you fight about The Flying Dutchman? I thought he liked German food."

"I didn't say we fought about it," Jane corrected primly. "I said we went round and round about it....round and round and round...." her voice faded off, "but we never found it."

"But didn't you have my map?"

"We had the map. We had broad daylight. But we just didn't have the restaurant. We did pass Sally's Antique Barn three or four times though."

"Than why didn't you get directions from Sally? Her brother owns the *Dutchman*. It's only about half a mile from her place."

"Hal was driving."

I nodded as it all became clear.

"I wrote this in the car on the way home," she said and tossed me the blue paisley notebook marked with a greasy napkin from MacDonalds.

-more-

Sing those romantic songs you once were so fond of to your new love. Sing in memory of me. Goodbye.

After he hung up, Jason played the message over and over in his mind as he waited on the westbound platform to make his fatal dash onto track.

Was his message too much? Had he been too maudlin? But weren't all suicide notes, by nature, maudlin? He was satisfied. The tone was just right then, not too much blame, not too much apology for leaving her with young Jason's problems and the mountain of debt that would cost her the house.

Where the hell is the train? If I have to isten to Rudolf, the Red-nosed Reindeer one more time on that damn loudspeaker, I'm going to kill my... But then he was going to do that anyway, wasn't he?

Flakes of wet snow started drifting down from a dreary overcast that turned the struggling sun into an odd orange ball. Across the tracks, the waiting crowd was getting restless. Parents held the littlest ones in their arms while the older siblings chased each other up and down the platform. Young professionals watched the chaos with the superior distain of the childless. Silver-haired retirees in handsome overcoats checked on their tickets to *A Christmas Carol* at the Goodman or the Apollo Chorus' annual *Messiah* at Symphony Hall. A wanderer in tattered jeans and a back pack carrying a cherished guitar sat down on one of the outside benches and strummed lazily, looking back up the tracks, unaware of the drama about to unfold in front of him.

Jason noticed two insouciant teen-agers, wearing the chains and black leather of the Goths, clinging to each other on his more deserted end of the platform. They were on the other side of the crossing where he stood waiting to put his suicide plan in motion.

GOING HIS WAY

The object of all of my fondest affections
Has one tiny flaw midst his many perfections.
On the roads he has driven our marital car,
And he's not really sure where exactly we are,
He never, but never, will ask for directions.

And oddly, my brother and son are the same.

Is not asking directions a male sort of a game

Where the rules are to wander the byways of life,

And drive to distraction one's sister or wife,

As they circle the way they just came?

Sometimes when we're having a nice Sunday ride, And my darling's in touch with his gentler side, When we're stopping for gas, quite often he'll say, "Go see if that fellow can tell us the way."

(If *I* ask, it won't injure his pride.)

I've asked round the world and it's as I suspected. This "don't ask" phenomenon's gender-connected. Men trust to their hormonal compass testicular To find where they're going on travels vehicular. And they get there much more than expected.

Night Shift Mao Was Right.

Yesterday, the Party chanted Mao until it became first nature.

Naturally, I longed to cross the street.

History helps if you use it for its intended uses, the way the street people do.

Over in mind. Over in mind. Over in

Mind how you put which foot where, this street can be dangerous, you know.

"Turn on your lights!" I yell.

Someone watches me in my mind however they do.

This isn't what I want.

Naturally I concoct intricate excuses and go over relics on this side of the street.

Icons of Mao with his Mona Lisa.

Nothing is forever.

On the diagonal corner, hidden tenants look out, smile.

They train to kill one day while their windows shine.

"Where's Dali when you need him?" I ask.

The answer is obvious, so I start over.

I think about it endlessly, going young, but they would rather parade and fight national solitary shadows against the wall.

And the heroes of the revolution sweep empty luxury streets clean while vendors hawk... hawk...

The afternoon cannot kill the young forever.

The train pulls in late, we give back.

Across the street the leaders clearly know we have received dog wanders.

You wonder if the warehouse collects from them confusedly.

The old can kill the words to the wise subway riders.

"Have I forgotten anything?" I wonder.

Come right, arrive, take your place in the next row as a lone dog sniffing garbage.

Easy to believe nothing will ever be the way of the movie Cold War.

Women sweep empty streets and across the street a lone dog sniffs the second day of eight garbage cans.

Across the street gray slums rot and it is a holiday for the only heroes.

It rains acid, according to the newspaper.

"I know who you are," I lie for reasons I don't understand.

Mao was right.

You revolt

Labor Day

Visit the city, its skyline adorned with temples of trade. See men bolstered against the factory gates, gray flesh pressing steel in the ripening dawn, hands hanging empty, their fingers curled around imaginary tools itching to get back to work.

Pass empty lots and see them rush forth when a passing car slows, each smile engaging and eager like an aspiring actor or a gigolo hustling for a job lasting days, hours or weeks, just to send something, anything home.

Walk along thickets coppered in peaches and pears, their harvest belching forth in abundance.

See workers strung along roads or crunching gravel paths with a résumé of desire plus experience down home, all for a pittance and a bed at the end of the long day's picking.

Learn about others, their backs tattooed from wire barricades, and hands, knees and bellies striated when heaving the walls as they race for a chance in the lottery of scale toward an honest day's labor, the sweat of the brow.

Travel the sea, fecundate with salmon and kelp where boats are cradled in the lapping waves, crooning a false promise to desperate workers before a rising surf's majesty rumbles into a crashing commandment to bail while their horizon fades to nothing.