



Fall 2021

Selected Poems Fall of 2021

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Blessed

by Sara Anne Hook

Step onto my front porch
Sunny Saturday morning, early November
Look up at the blue sky
Tall trees with leaves of orange and yellow
The bells from Butler's campus chime ten times
Give thanks for another day.

Suddenly, a bird flying low, swooping down
Crosses my line of vision
A hawk
Close enough for me to see the pattern of its feathers
Watch in awe as it settles on a high branch
Knowing that I am blessed.

Contemplation (Haiku)

by Sara Anne Hook

Early evening
Waiting for the traffic light
 One leaf floated down.

Once there was The Word
God whispered over the sea
 And then there were fish.

When you look at me
I hope that you can see
 A grateful woman.

When awake at night
I write haiku in my head
 Memorize the words.

His star always shines
A beacon in the darkness
 Beloved nephew.

God calls out to us
Amidst our grief, fear, and pain
 Listen for his voice.

Reverence

by Sara Anne Hook

Little slip of blue paper
Measuring 4 by 3 inches
Stamped with the date and time
*Please turn in this pass
at the Library Reception desk.*

He checked my paperwork
looked me up on his computer.
Security escort on the old-fashioned elevator
He closed the metal gate and pressed the buttons
it moaned and rattled as it lifted us.

Another check-in process
Before entering a lawyer's sacred space
center of my professional universe
Massive room, heavy wood paneling
mysterious, magical, magisterial.

Two stories of shelves, filled with volumes
that recorded the history of American common law
and the application of the U.S. Constitution.
Rested on the sofa, humbled
for what it represented.

I didn't touch any of the volumes.
Left nothing behind after my visit
except a slight indentation on the cushion
where I had been sitting.
Nothing at all...

Not even a little slip of blue paper
Measuring 4 by 3 inches
Stamped with the date and time
*Please turn in this pass
at the Library Reception desk.*

For Libby

by Sara Anne Hook

I knew that you were the one for me.
So lively when the others were asleep.
Playing furiously with a small ball or bell.
Did you know that would help me make my choice?

The name on the cage card was Vanessa.
Vanessa - that's not a good name for a cat!
Instead, I named you Liberty - Libby for short.
The smartest cat I ever had.

The most beautiful cat, too.
Green eyes, long tail, and striped fur.
Your face always alert and filled with love.
When you looked at me.

Feisty, fastidious, physically fit, not fearful of strangers.
My constant companion, my little pal.
Curled up under my chin as I watched television.
Snuggled between me and Jim in bed.

Finishing my ice cream or Jim's yogurt.
Eager for treats in the morning.
Fascinated by running water.
Colored rings from plastic milk jugs.

Lately, there has been a change
I know that one day your time on earth will be over.
Hopefully, not too soon.
But I don't want you to suffer.

Whenever you depart this world.
You will join the other angels on my shoulder
They are waiting for you.
And I will bless the years that we had together.

N.B.: Libby passed away a few days after I wrote this poem