

OTOROSHI



JOURNAL

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2
SUMMER 2021

COVER ART BY AIDA DEWEESE-BOYD

Dear Readers,

Thank you for jumping into our hearse once again for a tour of the cemetery in our minds. You'll find the usual madness in this issue seasoned with some new voices that we think you'll enjoy.

Because what we're doing is so new and because we are niche within niche within niche here, we put together a resources page to help writers who are interested in writing horror on [our website](#). Please check them out. We're also thinking about putting together some short lectures for YouTube, so if you have thoughts, questions, ideas, etc. let us know.

As always, thank you to our contributors for their work. This journal would not exist without them. Also, thank you to you, our readers, for joining us in this experiment. We hope you enjoy this issue as much as the last one.

Sincerely,
Joshua Gage & Lori A Minor

ROBERTA BEACH JACOBSON

midnight hour
one swerve to avoid
once-dead roadkill

JOHN HAWKHEAD

autumn wind
against the window
a powdered ghost

RICHA SHARMA

night dream
i stand
near my head

FRANCIS W. ALEXANDER

bewitching hour—
awakened by grinning dolls
in both arms

clouded moon
a raven's carcass in
the scarcrow's grip

HIFSA ASHRAF

ghost town
among dark clouds
the moon's eye

GREG SCHWARTZ

blood moon
a corpse gnaws the gristle
off another

Bodement

I feel a frisson of fear as she unpins the emergency button from my bed. The intravenous needle tears a hole through my skin and blood spurts from the wound. My bedding becomes drenched with urine and stomach acid as the catheter and feeding tubes are yanked out. Taking my brittle hands in hers, she kisses the tip of each finger before breaking them, one by one. I am without oxygen, but conscious enough to understand that this is what I deserve. With a final gasp, I beg for her forgiveness.

the sin-eater
consuming
transgressions
consuming
the sin-eater

Stain

Putting the children to sleep I open the book to
read the same story.

between clouds
the face
of my stillborn

RICH SCHILLING

closed beach
crabs emerge from holes
in the body

SUSAN BURCH

snapping your bones one by one hearth fire

first datę
he has øverything
but a shadow

spring thaw
the faint outline
of a skull

ARVINDER KAUR

abandoned house the sound of grandpa's clock

bag of mulch
burying her ghosts
in the rose bed

ANN K. SCHWADER

doomsday clock
one hundred seconds
deep into night

BEE JAY

climate change
the tree with its hands
around my throat

BRYAN RICKERT

left overnight
the corpse's mouth
full of frost

YVETTE NICOLE KOLODJI

blood moon
she wipes her lips
with a napkin

LORRAINE PADDEN

empty theatre
a ghost light
afraid of the dark

CONTRIBUTORS

Francis W. Alexander, a six-time Rhysling nominee, is the author of *I Reckon* and *When the Mushrooms Come*. He is co-editor of the Drabbun anthology (Hirath Publishing). Wes has had poems published in *The Ohio Haiku Anthology*, *Failed Haiku*, *Cattails*, *Scifaikuest*, *Tales from the Moonlit Path*, *Spaceports and Spidersilk*, and *Space and Time*.

Hifsa Ashraf lives in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. She is an award-winning poet, author, editor, and social activist. Please visit her blog to view her published work. hifsays.blogspot.com or follow her on Twitter at [@hifsays](https://twitter.com/hifsays).

Susan Burch is a good egg.

Aida DeWeese-Boyd is a young artist who resides in Massachusetts and can be followed on Instagram [@vannessablue.draws](https://www.instagram.com/vannessablue.draws).

John Hawkhead is a writer and illustrator from the South West of England. His haiku, haiga and senryu have been published all over the world and he was recently awarded the Grand Prix in the 10th Setouchi Matsuyama haiku contest. His book *Small Shadows* is from Alba Press.

Roberta Beach Jacobson is a poet who makes her home in Iowa, USA.

Bee Jay was born in a coffin and spent childhood locked in a dungeon on an island off the coast of Orfania. Luckily, the Y2K bug opened all the doors and passageways and Bee escaped into the 21st century to live forever after with a tree and two sergaming saplings.

Arvinder Kaur has taught English Literature and Media Studies to students at graduation and post graduation level. Her haiku have appeared in leading print and online haiku journals. She has two books of haiku to her credit. She introduced cherita to vernacular writers by translating ai li's cherita into Hindi and Punjabi.

Ngo Binh Anh Khoa is currently a teacher of English at Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH) in Vietnam. In his free time, he enjoys reading and writing dark verses for entertainment, some of which have appeared in *New Myths*, *Spectral Realms*, *Weirdbook*, and elsewhere.

Debbie Kolodji is the California Regional Coordinator of the Haiku Society of America and has published over 1000 haiku, four chapbooks, one full-length book, *highway of sleeping towns*, and a new e-chapbook by Title IX Press, *Tug of a Black Hole*.

Yvette Kolodji is a Haiku poet who has been publishing since 2014. She graduated from UCSC with a B.S. in Biochemistry but her passion is art and poetry.

Jayashree Manijil has been a casual enthusiast of Japanese short forms since 2011. She lives in Melbourne, Australia.

Lorraine Padden is a contemporary haiku poet whose work has appeared in journals including *Modern Haiku*, *The Heron's Nest*, *tingwords*, *#FemkuMag* and *Kingfisher*, and others. She recently won *Tricycle Magazine's* Best of the Haiku Challenge with an extended commentary on her work featured in the summer 2021 print issue.

Vandana Parashar is a microbiologist and a haiku enthusiast. Her love for brevity made her fall in love with haiku and related forms of Japanese poetry. Her work has been published in many national and international journals of repute, and has won her prizes and accolades. Her haiku was shortlisted for Touchstone Award for Individual poem in 2021. Her debut e-chapbook *I Am* was published by Title IX Press in 2019.

Sanjla Pliško likes to look at the Moon.

Bryan Rickert is the current Haiku Society of America Midwest Regional Coordinator and has been published in a number of fine journals and anthologies. His book *Fish Kite* is available through Cyberwit Publishing. He is the Co-Editor of *Failed Haiku* and the editor of *The Living Senryu Anthology*.

Rich Schilling writes what the voices in his head tell him. He haunts Webster Groves, MO. Instagram: [@rjssix](#)

Ann K. Schwader is a two-time Bram Stoker Award finalist, an SFFA Grand Master, & the author of several collections of dark verse. Her most recent, *Unquiet Stars*, was published in May by Weird House Press. She lives a deceptively quiet life in suburban Colorado with her husband. Learn more at <http://www.schwader.net/>

Greg Schwartz has held many jobs, from copier technician to fitness instructor and much in between. He spends his free time chasing his children around. He's been lucky enough to win a Dwarf Stars Award and have his poems appear in awesome magazines like *Talebones*, *Modern Haiku* and *Seifaikuest*.

Richa Sharma has been writing Japanese short form poetry for about two years, inspired by her love for nature and language. Her work has regularly appeared in numerous journals like *#FemkuMag*, *Failed Haiku*, *Poetry Pea Podcast* and others.

Debbie Strange is Canadian short-form poet, haiga artist, and photographer whose work has been widely published internationally. She is the winner of the 2020 Snapshot Press Book Award and the 2019 Sable Books International Women's Haiku Book Contest. Please visit her archive of awards and publications at: <https://debbiemstrange.blogspot.com>