

TCPL  
POEM IN  
YOUR  
POCKET  
DAY  
ANTHOLOGY  
2024

## **Her**

It's harvesting season  
I'm hoeing and reaping  
She's at the disco  
Hoeing  
I'm weeping

*Selina Balci*

## **WINE AND PROSES**

I am eating summer--  
peaches awash in French vanilla ice  
cream.

And before that, the last of a  
Portuguese wine.

At my feet the cat waits,  
knowing more than I  
of transubstantiation.

Nothing in excess! cautioned an old  
Greek, scolding his fellow citizens  
for their joyous nights and days.

Both ways persist:  
the wariness of some, ignoring  
what winter will insist,  
and the rest of us to celebrate  
our ripeness that is blest.

*Jack Hopper*

In another life, I'd be a cobbler  
I'd make a man some dancing  
shoes

Then build a street for him to  
waltz on

Any which way he'd choose

I'd wake up far up in the hills  
Befriend a little mountain goat  
I'd feed him fresh tomatoes  
And then register him to vote

Yesterday, I walked to class  
And then I did my laundry  
Oh but how I love the mundane -  
My my, what a quandary!

*Arshia Agrawal*

This rainy day  
I am one with the couch  
Preserved by my cushion  
As two leaves in stone

But deep in my loafing  
Heart paces, eyes leap  
I wander a world  
Between two paper covers

*Rachel Friedland*

Until the moment  
we become kids again,  
let us see the ends  
of the earth;  
For this strange existence  
we call life  
Is like belting into a tunnel.  
And you can subsume the noise...  
the echoes... the din  
in murky water; we spend  
our years trying to sift  
and grow the patience for it to settle,  
to see the reflection of an old kid  
whose dreams we have long since  
foreseen.

*Monty Hamm*

## **Daily Adventures**

Today  
I kept my child alive  
Again  
Blocking doors to hypothermia  
Knowing  
I am a flimsy barrier  
Over and over  
Filling ears with love  
Locking away temptations  
Riding emotional waves  
Until a better tomorrow.

Rabbi Suzanne Brody

## **Shindagin Hollow**

Soft glow of spring sun  
On the forest floor  
Warming dark mud dank with  
Ice-mulched autumn leaves  
And winter-felled trees.  
My lover pauses to note an  
Odd bend in a branch,  
This new love making everything  
Shine with beauty.  
My heart is opening to love again.  
At age 52.  
The risk. The audacity. The joy.

*Michelle Crow*



## **The Dictator**

When he tweets  
reverse the order of his words

With the tiniest of stethoscopes  
listen for his heart

If he becomes agitated  
cover his cage with a blanket

Line his enclosure with old newspaper  
crystal amulets and silk

for breakfast  
the blood of snakes

Teach him how to say pretty bird  
Offer him parsley and a mirror

Do not let him out

*Melissa Tuckey*

Adventure knocked upon my door  
Tapping like a little bird  
The old chair creaked upon the floor  
With outstretched ear I listened more  
Beyond the inner voices heard.

With curtains of the world without  
A quiet table safe inside  
Where served a heady dose of doubt  
Poured by a world that won't not  
shout  
A taste that once again I tried.

Adventure knocked outside again  
I stood this time and let her in.

*Stevan Knapp*

## The Bike

I run away from the impossible,  
arriving back,  
at the core of my desire.  
A raveled thing constantly flees.

Thirsty. I peel off a fruit,  
I cannot reach the flesh.  
The knife, in a spiral motion.  
I am still thirsty, holding a  
nautilus cell.

I ride the bike, thinking of you.  
Sweaty, exhausted, and happy.  
Heartbeats, I count. Days,  
I haven't seen you. I am alive.

*Eirva Diamessis*

I'm learning how to live.  
It's not something you  
are born knowing  
how to do.  
It's difficult, and unfamiliar.  
I find myself repeating,  
"Remember— progress is not  
linear".  
Desperate pleas, for passage  
to whatever lies  
below the surface.  
Because somewhere in here  
is a will of my own.  
So, I've got to remember:  
I got this.

*Andreas Candelario*

## **Adventure in 4/4 time**

Interstellar constellations,  
Like internal conversations;  
A mountain of climbing, a sibling  
you can't reach.

The moon lander fell over, like my  
Hemingway daiquiri, When the  
cat Jumped from the fridge.

I sat on the beach. It was nice.

A sense of adventure, desire for  
death, and inflated stock prices  
For a plane that has crashed at  
least twice.

For an archer, for a musician, each  
note or arrow Is the one that  
makes the journey, finishes trips.

Try once. Try thrice.

If it isn't in your marrow?

Take small sips.

*Jenni Kivisild*

at one time,  
i'd consider waking up  
to the blue birds and half-bitten banana left on the side table  
adventurous.

something i never thought i'd do.

the blue birds that sit by my window seem to shrill louder by the minute  
but they're singing for me  
chirps and chunes concocted across countries.

mashallah, they tell me  
we are alive

*jess ishmeil ramtahal*

Lost  
Without knowing  
The cost  
Of being  
Seen  
Or The cost  
Of seeing Beings.  
Everything Is nothing  
But what It seems  
In dreams Unseen  
Space-times In tween  
The soul  
Shattering cost  
Of being wHole

*Jenna D Bear*

For all the wildness of worlds woods there are as many knots of fiber  
found under bone

Unfurl and unwind heart strings twixt fore and thumb fingers

What sunrise brings this day to know

One more day to discover

What makes the handsome beat of this heart grow stronger

For there are yet still all the sights to be wondered And all the hands to  
be held What minute miracles To be witness to Today Tomorrow And  
Always

*Jay Campos*



## **Left to Fade**

Pressing the purple blooms,  
Begging them not to fade.  
Futility is to hold the immaterial,  
Futility is to try  
Futile is the attempt to keep the  
self which is no longer mine.

But as the blooms fade  
I press and hope for pain.  
For what of us is left  
When what is written in flesh  
fades away.

*Sydney Paluch*

## **Buoy**

On wide sea's searing bone-chill  
we fear depths  
forests of fathoms  
but cold waves will carry the blaze  
fire  
floating flame on water

*Mischa Dixon*

## **two glottal stops**

the space between  
two glottal stops

perplexing

i raise my brows  
and type into my translator  
in a fury

there is no entry for that sound

the six eyes before me blink  
waiting for my reply

*D.A. Xiaolin Spires*

(First published in Star\*Line, Winter 2023)

fallen feather sails  
on sky painted ocean  
destination unknown

*Frank Muller*

Let's go on an adventure!  
Here, there, everywhere

Let's...

Climb every tower in our eye  
Visit every planet in the sky  
Harmonize with lions, tigers, and bears  
Stay up past eleven, I don't care!  
For me, what we do really doesn't matter  
Let's just pick up a pen  
and write the next chapter

*Jada Simone*

## The Opposite of Hogwarts

School comes to you, to your messy room.

You supply your own owl.

You have a Chromebook on loan.

The school bought thousands in exchange for books and your brain.

The Sorting Hat only cares how tall you are.

Suspension is in-school.

They'd never let you near a flying broom.

The kid hiding in the stall is vaping.

On the other hand, you are not sucked into generations-old controversies by the school administration.

Your parents are alive and well.

Nobody here has to invent a fake racial hierarchy from scratch.

*Emily Sanders Hopkins*

## Strawberry Fields

New York, New York

I regret ignoring the monk in Central  
Park

who offered me smile, beads and  
prayers.

This city hardens you on every corner

makes you lose sight and forces your  
eyes

to veer from the darkness of cups and  
coffee cans

shaken by broken veterans and  
homeless youth.

The monk's look offered me joy  
and forgiveness and I walked on  
as if I had somewhere else to be.

*Eric Machan Howd*

## **Moonrise Kingdom**

Nothing man-made  
Could possibly capture  
All the vibrance of the blue  
Or how the bright sunlight hits  
the crystalline ocean  
Sparkling like Poseidon's most  
precious gem  
The way the wind licks at my hair  
Gives me freedom that cannot  
be confined by  
Or condensed down into  
Just one smiling photograph

*Ken Cassano*



## **Life's Adventures**

To live is to have adventures. Each thread, embedded in the unknown, can be sweet, but also shrouded by an unsought dread, with unknown endings: success or defeat. Each new adventure is only a trial, often an unknown entrance to a quest, perhaps with an ending which brings a smile, at times finding something which is the best, an opportunity for breathing air, clearing our thoughts. They may sometimes go wrong. Some paths will lead to moments sweet and fair; others leave us with a sorrowful song. Life's adventures will fill us with surprise, sometimes sadness, sometimes making us wise.

*Roni Fuller*

**i curl**

on the back of Big Rock,  
spooning a knapsack

what would you  
bring into the future

what is light enough to pack,  
needed enough to lug,  
to claim responsibility,  
relevant to new covenants  
so it is innocent  
and you are a new virgin

*Wren Tuatha*

## **CAST YOUR NET**

The world is full of opportunities

Like ponds, rivers, lakes, and oceans

They are everywhere

Whatever you want is yours for the taking

Grab a pole, a net, or wade right in

Use your hands

You are sure to get something

As long as you try

Cast your net

You will be surprised at what you find.

*Janie E. Bibbie*

Steps outside lead  
Inward.  
Walking through trees  
and thoughts and feelings.  
I seek within without.  
It's all roundabout,  
When the journey isn't yours.  
Winding roads inside to make it  
home.  
Hold hands, hold hearts, nothing's  
apart.  
Steps inside lead  
Outward.

*Chelsea Guy*

## On the Godless Beauty of What Is

After a while, I noticed my backyard  
fire  
was throwing the maple leaves high  
above it into a panic. Then it pushed  
out  
a cloud of smoke that drifted to the  
top  
of the black walnut tree at the  
yard's edge.

The cloud hovered there like a  
hummingbird.

Any day now, I thought to myself,  
the leaves will turn the color of fire  
and fall—if wet, like stones, if dry,  
like little cradles rocking babies to  
sleep.

*cory brown*

## **ADVENTURE Pocket**

All you have to do to  
Dream of me? Listen as  
Vague hints of my love for  
Engagement condense into a  
Nuclear bomb of thrilling tense  
Tingles: ASMR\* at your nape, a hand  
Under your pocket. Remember when our  
Resting breath returned to normal after panting?  
Each shivering in that cave under Horseshoe Falls, when risk was allowed.

\*Autonomous Sensory Meridian Response

*James W Hamilton*

## **Sign of Birth**

A Chance Encounter at the grocery  
store.

Or in the growing line to buy a  
stamp.

What pleases one may not another.

But silver linings are all the rage.

Once upon a time a story line

Pulls up an anchor from the past.

And floating free you never ask

What brings back spring again

With all its green and color

Endowed with freshly brewed.

A head pokes out in lightness

From seasonally sun-thawed earth,

To take a breath of freshness

And chance the sigh of birth.

*Michael Foldes*

## **Dragon Unicorn**

lives two worlds where we live one.

Knows night and day at the same  
time,

eats at twilight, drinks at dawn.

Their horn is formed of spiraled fire.

Their hooves curve sharp with  
glittered claws.

When they travel through a forest

a city rises where they step,

every street a cave of roses,

every tree a burning jewel.

*Katharyn Howd Machan*



## **“Spirit Dance”**

I’m running up the spiral staircase to the skies above. My eyes drink in the glorious sunshine. Further on up tonight I’ll reach my favorite stars. I hold on tight and never look back or down because this journey is all about the future. Angels beckon me upward and onward....

Spirits teach me how to dance.

*Stephen Miller*

## **Today I Fly**

it starts as

wild flapping in my chest

shiny black feathered

growing beyond me

out into my arms

I am running

fast faster a flash

brilliant blue sparkles off skin

air rushes my cheeks throat shoulders

wind under me

I lift.

*Susan Eschbach*

## **Delightful. Dangerous. Dizzy**

Spines enfold  
newfound delights...  
days laced with hesitation,  
subterfuge, and fixation,  
days adorned by easy cheer and easy play,  
days piled and tip-topped  
towards leaning and falling—

Creased covers encase  
the heat of others,  
the dreams of others...

I sank in the ink,  
seduced by fantasy, by danger.

*Sarah*

if i had to do it all over again  
i wouldn't take things so seriously  
i'd make more mistakes  
swim in more lakes

eat more ice cream  
cause more trouble

wake up early  
and walk around barefoot

i'll find the sun shining  
and i'll accomplish every dream i've  
ever had

*Veda Balte*

## **Oh, I Didn't See You Tie My Shoelaces Together**

How about it?  
Let's take the leap,  
Push the button,  
Cast the die (give it a whirl),  
Cross the Rubicon,  
Jump in with both feet,  
Burn the bridges,  
Live on the edge,  
Sign on the dotted line,  
Commence liftoff,  
Throw caution to the wind,  
Boldly go, go for broke —  
Fall flat on our faces?

*Benedileo Pandinoli*

Adventure is my middle name  
I Live For is my first,  
when I go outside to get my mail  
tiny bubbles burst.

*Rich Recchia*

## **Adventure:**

A day when your spirit reconvenes with our soul

Destiny a word that's meant to bound you to the ground gives you power to  
find your whole

Vanished dreams once gone fly through the sky until you can see the star  
Emerge and accept who you become and arise from it all

Nearest sea is your heart when you love and when you're gone

To the day where you'll say that you'll reconcile

Unambiguous and unforgettable

Run free and experience it all

Erase the boundaries and recall the day ur soul was free and open to it all

*Avin Bagheri*

## **Away from Home**

*August 21, 1981*

Why is it so  
On my own, it's so  
Difficult to go?

Yet as I take leave  
Space grants the reprieve  
And motivation I again retrieve.

Filled with resolve!  
Upon returning,  
Don't let it dissolve.

*Maureen McKenna*



## **Only the Moon and I**

Only the moon and I witness  
the tide pushing back  
in from the bay  
under the uneven ice,  
which begins to crack  
deeply along its length.

The sound spreads upstream  
into the pinedark woods,  
as if the river had shifted  
once in its chains  
and announced  
that landscape is not limit.

I feel a similar stir and  
know it is time to leave.

*Stephen Paling*

*From Rooms In Old Houses*

## **Epilogue**

What part of this life has not been divine?

Summer mornings of glorious colors, scents of earth...

Silly laughter, sighs, with a dear one,

a secret, a mystery, a dream between us...

Deep, wild water's chilly thrill, shocking my senses...

A passage so sweet, so tender, I cannot but weep...

High mountain thrush whose cadence stops my breath...

The thrill of speed, giddy, aloft, leaving Terra Firma

    flying like gods in an endless sky...

So there is one thing to know, for you, and you alone:

    Embrace Life Completely

*Eva Marques*

adventure is like  
risks that we take  
on as we live life so  
holding on and being  
strong for the ones  
we love is a risky  
thing for a person  
that wants to have  
adventure and living  
life this will make  
you adventurous,

*D. Braxton*

## **The Victory you see coming ..**

Playtime in daytime  
and adventures at night.  
Freetime in bliss  
and care time not trimmed.  
No bleeding in silence  
and falling over painless gains.  
Joy wrapped in moments  
and the victory you see coming  
Redeemed from the wallowing  
trenches,  
Dancing on mighty wings  
It's the passionate adventure,  
the riding joy..  
It's the victory you see...coming

*Sanya Saxena*

## **Trust and do as you please**

Best work done up before dawn

Using yesterday's proof making a mess

Stretching every which way for so many all to be unique  
product of a prideful life's work, lessons learned.

Created so many obligations will I complete all or none

Just to have made enough good bread to feed all my daughters and sons.

The echoes through time, My friend told me "If you don't start doing your home work,  
you'll end up being the neighborhood pizzaman"

did so much of everything else, It's all I could've been

Poor me it's too good to sell

wouldn't have it any other way this oven's hotter than hell.

*Tyler Morris*

## **Lonely Road**

Down this lonely road is  
all I've always ever  
known. Sharing nothing  
cuz this is all I've ever  
been shown. Being let  
down at every corner, at  
the cross section of this  
road will the light be  
shown or will this 4ever  
be the lonely road

*Randell*

## *At The End of The Road There is Always A Path*

Traveling from the East to the West, After my Jubear was taken  
Being all alone not knowing who I was or where to call home  
not even sadly knowing what Road I was supposed to be taking

Beautifully enough made me go down the Roads less taken  
all alone, cold, no one to call on the phone, so scared within  
not knowing what to do or where to go, I was terrified I was beyond shaken

Inside I was empty and numb, afraid to show my truest self  
Intentionally by others, weakened made to feel weak, made to feel dumb  
To just fit in their fine line of being programmed to be just another Elf on the shelf.

no one really realized I would ever find the strength within to truly be the best that I can be  
Which is limitless through simplicity as God created me of simply just being my self  
For I was never meant to fit in And finally realizing that I'm proud of myself  
For that is the biggest Adventure to just believe in my self.

*Brittany Walls*

## **Adventure**

Though i travel everywhere  
with no place to go!

No place to rest my head.

No place to rest my soul.

I race towards the Light  
trying to find a home

A tired worry traveler  
threw the roads i'll carry on.

*Austin Schiller*



## **Butterflies**

In the eyes of a butterfly  
they have a love for adventure.

In a migration flight they look for  
a beautiful bright flower to land upon.

Whispering butterfly kisses to their mate

A diet of sweet nectar gives them the energy to take to their wings,  
in flight for a long migration like a baby sea turtle takes to momma

So that's through the eyes of a butterfly.

They have a love for adventure.

*Leshya Payne*

The light breeze flowing through  
your hair, vibrant colors exploding in the  
Air, no need for a set destination just  
a calm patience and a permanent sense  
of mediation, your body feels heightened  
monarch butterflies coursing through your  
Veins not a worry in your brain  
Smiles everywhere finally no pain.  
A yearn for it to never end and priceless  
moments that deserves the honor to be captured  
closing my eyes and burning these moments into  
My memory because I never want to forget the journey

*Lasalle Hargrove*

## Thoughts on Life

The best things in life are free  
Free to search for find and explore that is  
You'll still have today for them in some form or fashion  
You'll spend plenty of time & effort looking  
Plenty of time & effort analyzing  
and plenty of time wishing you never found them in the first place  
But by then you'll be old and withering  
and wondering whether you'll make it into Heaven or Hell  
Probably not says the old man with the long beard at the end of the Path  
Probably not he says as he rubs his tummy and laughs

*Rishawn Vieweg*

**Adventure.....**

Why am I doomed for failures, before I even fail;  
Why is it my adventures always seem to end with jail!  
Wouldn't it be nice to travel like a piece of mail;  
But then wouldn't the true story of love, still end up in jail!  
To soar the skies as a bird with no limits;  
Or to travel through air frequencies, only contacted by digits!  
Adventures of living in the green of pastures in a foreign land;  
That would mean no trespassing signs or being ran off by man!  
Adventure can sometimes be high stakes, when my skin is my sin;  
Being in America so long shows me the many places I can't go, white man can!  
So my adventures do come with numerous limitations;  
As if traveling the world while you're on parole or probation!

*Arthur Harriett*

## Life's An Adventure

Never endeavor to be mundane  
You never know what act could be your  
claim to fame  
Now can be your time, today could be  
your day.

So everything you do make sure  
You do it great. In that way you  
Can ensure the Legend of your name  
Live on past your expiration date

If your life was a movie, would  
Anyone watch it? Or when they're  
Flipping channels would yours be  
The one who gets skipped? Whether  
Positive or negative make sure your  
actions

Have an impact and the concussion  
Reverberates away and effects the  
things in its path. When you look back  
On your life does it excite you, are you  
smiling?  
Because if not you're not really  
Living.

*Alex Mosher*

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