

failed ~~haiku~~

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Cast List

In order of appearance
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Audrey Quinn
Debbie Strange
Bryan Rickert/*John Pappas*
Gillena Cox
Oscar Luparia
Joanna Ashwell
rs / *Shloka Shankar*
Randy Brooks
Vandana Parashar / *Arvinder Kaur*
Cynthia Anderson
John Hawkhead
Bryan Rickert / *Susan Burch*
Richa Sharma
Adele Evershed
Arvinder Kaur / *Neena Singh*
Bryan Rickert / *Susan Burch*
Marilyn Ward
Roberta Beach Jacobson
David Gale
Lev Hart / *Linda Papanicolaou*
Ann Smith / *Keith Evetts*
Lulu Sinnott
Ingrid Baluchi
Jacob D. Salzer
Peter Jastermsky
Peter Jastermsky / *Lorraine A Padden*

Becoming

wind against pane

reaching to pay
he brushes her arm –
first date

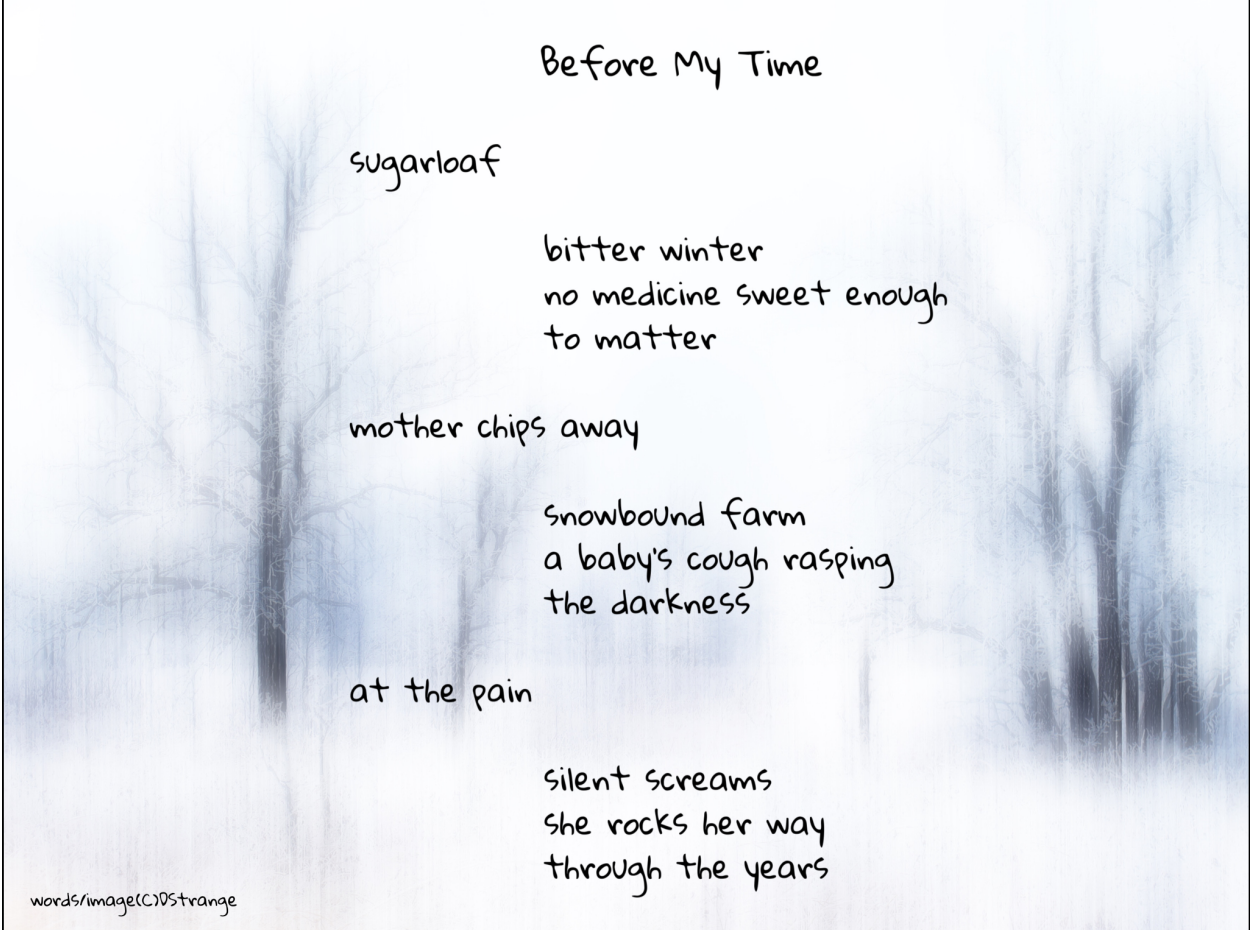
our feet touch

on the promenade
a blanket curved
around their knees

under the covers

decking slick
beneath their feet . . .
night fall

Audrey Quinn



Before My Time

sugarloaf

bitter winter
no medicine sweet enough
to matter

mother chips away

snowbound farm
a baby's cough rasping
the darkness

at the pain

silent screams
she rocks her way
through the years

words/image(C)DStrange

Debbie Strange

Final Out

spring begins

*opening day
the empty pocket
of dad's glove*

an old bicycle tire

lengthening days
his old dog-eared
trading card

for second base

*game day
a dugout filled
with shadows*

Bryan Rickert/John Pappas

To Another Island

a baby turtle

in plastic wraps
to avoid the sea spray
our cellphones

disappears in a flash

someone shouts look
a circular ripple
on the sea surface

kayak glides along

orange safety gear
all our feet are shod in
comfy sneakers

Gillena Cox

ADVERTISING

50% off sale

democracy
there's room for everyone
at the hypermarket

not buying anything at all

a revolutionary act
to keep my shopping cart
perfectly empty

I saved twice

stay tuned
in my next split-sequences
further financial advices

Oscar Luparia

Escape Route

cream cheese

an open invitation
to the neighbors
our broken fence

it's the way you

almost there
a shot away
from commitment

reinvent yourself

in the moment
a puddle's skein
of rainbows

Joanna Ashwell

Instability

calculating visibility

*sea spray
the particles that
make me up*

the imperfections

forever
taking the blame
salt pillar

in humanity

*paganism
I surrender
to the unknown*

rs / Shloka Shankar

Space Shuttle Challenger

January 28, 1986

a schoolteacher
on the astronaut team
her lesson plans

in single file
waving for the cameras
space shuttle crew

eager smiles

televisions in classrooms
across America
launch count down

morning's early light
only the spaceship
bursting in air

on their way to outer space

bits of the Challenger
raining down on them
Channel 4 News

the instant replay

Randy Brooks

Crayons on the wall

tug of war

*the silence
of ebonies and ivories
separation*

I end up with an ear

school bus stop
mothers exchange notes
on illnesses

of the pink bunny

*play ground
a little girl's ponytail
swings right and left*

Vandana Parashar / Arvinder Kaur

A Time to Reap

midnight crickets

small town graveyard
secrets buried
in the family plot

the past I forgot

late summer light
days growing shorter
by the minute

to remember

spent garden
saving seeds to grow
a new heart

Cynthia Anderson

Where Dust Gathers

death bed quietude

water-filled eyes
staring out at new growth
bones full of winter

healthy people fluttering

grave goods
an album of photographs
destined for landfill

around a small flame

identity thieves
stamped on her headstone
blooms of lichen

John Hawkhead

Descent

twilight

*so tired
of going on
like this
I can't keep waiting
for you to relove me*

the river absorbs

not a cloud
in the deep blue
wondering
if on the way down
I would regret the jump

the sound of my screams

*it's not turtles
all the way down
the world
is a leviathan —
its mouth wide open*

Bryan Rickert/Susan Burch

Fate's Lesson

autumn sea

the lone witness
to our quarrel
living room figurine

again reminded about

baby's birth
the first dance
of snowflakes

being a woman

divorce
i exercise the terrible
freedom

Richa Sharma

Seasoned

second summer

crimson tide
painting my nails
to match my mood

the path through the long grass

wool gathering
spotting white tufts
in my pubes

now a road

fall wind
I plant wildflowers
in all my cracks

Adele Evershed

Schmaltz

siblings' day

*wearing his jacket
the brother who left
without an address*

two handfuls of raisins

*pillow fights
spoonerism and giggles
of yore*

for the rice pudding

*granny's home
smoke curls rise
out of the clay stove*

Arvinder Kaur / Neena Singh

This Time

autumn sunrise

*waking up
in your arms
feels so natural
it is too soon
to hope for more*

Venus' last wink

the chance
goodbye
won't be the last
our embrace
a little bit longer

before fading

*I get out
the flannel sheets
cursing myself
for thinking this time
would be any different*

Bryan Rickert / Susan Burch

cosmetic surgery

never knowing
that i was
quite pretty

giving a lopsided smile

i tip my phone
to capture the best part
of a selfie

to a pumpkin

a kiss from me
almost created
a prince

Marilyn Ward

ship in a bottle

self-isolation . . .
social butterflies
in my stomach

I long to release it

stage debut
finally I can sing every word
to the song

to the sea

each island
could be a new home
migrants

Roberta Beach Jacobson

Remembrance

keeping vigil

doctor's visit
the moon
half empty

too polite to interrupt

long covid
you hear my message
and ask my name

my suffering

many hours seated here
the plaque's expanding list
of names

David Gale

Flow

back to normal

*summer weekend
a red river of traffic
all the way home*

herding geese through a village

ghost town
rush hour congested
with saplings

in rubble

*castle ramparts
a contrail
through the breach*

Lev Hart / Linda Papanicolaou

SWALK

summer's end

*a promise
to write each day
becomes each week*

the scarlet splash

scratched in the bark
behind the brambles
a kiss

of mountain ash

*on the bed
legs to the sky
winter fly*

Ann Smith / Keith Evetts

winter picnic

tiny red spider
falls into my salad -
protein boost

on our old stone seat

flooded river -
each time I forget
the hole in my boot

young lovers

New Year's Day -
the river weeps
for your demise

Lulu Sinnott

Inevitability

green soldiers

in the midst of war
a baby born
preterm

standing straight

village green
the broken horses
of a merry-go-round

this grid of poplars

conflict
the need we have
to claim control

Ingrid Baluchi

Returning

her shadows

*the wall
once full of photos
now empty*

returning

notes
from an old friend
this moonless night

in a dream

*our mandala
lost in the tide
without a trace*

Jacob D. Salzer

Expectations

buckling sky

great pains
the distance grows
with each word

a sudden shift

standing our ground
the uneven slant
of a boardwalk

in cloud cover

twilight dragon
another dream
breathes fire

Peter Jastermsky

Foreshadows

stray cloud

drenched shirt
remembering
what humid is

the mood I pray

deep breath
washing over
another sigh

will pass

dropped hints
the old dog
doesn't come home

Peter Jastermsky

Slow Release

time to kill

*a jar of darjeeling
steeps
in the shade*

the pleasures

in her smile
a light
that went missing

of an empty chair

*upending the glass
sweet dregs
cling to the bottom*

Peter Jastermsky / Lorraine A Padden

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