

Anca Vlasopolos – Three Poems

Lifetimes on Craigville Beach

years ago

we walk this beach at dusk

you prattle promises

you would become a famous singer

like Selena only you would live

you'd buy me this or no this better beach house

now at sunset

without you

i walk this same beach

you could not buy me

a handful of this sand

if you desired it

windows of these large houses

behind their trespass warnings

regard me

i think

mockingly

but in truth they stay empty without a single care

Upright

tough as nails tender as skin
lily pads rise a wave
cheering wind's might

some stuck in that pose of worship
show wine-dark underparts catching the sun's eye
semaphores flashing light's leap to planet's other half

Pieceful Time

in mist so thick it felt like drizzle
two canada geese three mourning doves ambled
on what passes with us for lawn
the peaceable kingdom hushed serene

perfectly camouflaged slate back speckled chest
cooper's hawk preyed
soon a gentle fall of down told of her success

on the last step the chipmunk munched
an orange seeming candy in its paws
its sharp small mouth inside the baby turtle's shell

somewhere nearby we heard earth movers heaving
so much of so little left

Anca Vlasopolos published the award-winning novel *The New Bedford Samurai*; the award-winning memoir *No Return Address: A Memoir of Displacement*; four collections of poems, *Often Fanged Light* (Adelaide Books, 2019), *Cartographies of Scale (and Wing)* (2015), *Walking Toward Solstice* (2012), and *Penguins in a Warming World* (2007); three poetry chapbooks, a detective novel, *Missing Members*, and over three hundred poems and short stories in literary journals.