

Linda M. Crate – Two Poems

won't trip over apologies

i have been told
that i am
intense, intimidating,
and scary;

but i refuse to back down
i am a strong woman

you are wise to fear me
if you won't respect
me because i won't hesitate
to call out those
who wrong me anymore—

i hate unnecessary confrontations,
but sometimes the only way
to get through to some people is by being
fierce and firm and i won't ever back down;

i am who i am and i am not ashamed
of who i am any longer so you cannot shame
me into silence or subservience;

assertive women may be scary to those
who have no ambitions or goals or those that wish
to control us but women were never your
property nor your possessions,
we are a magic and a strength all our own;

and i won't trip over apologies
should you be scared.

i embrace my wilds

i won't be soft
just because that's
what you expect
a woman to be

you have to earn
a spot at my table
before i am showing
any vulnerability,

too many people
have used and abused
my trust and my kindness
i am not about to open

the doors of my hospitality to
just anyone;
i am not the gorgon you will slay
or the vampire you will stake—

i am the immortal phoenix
rising from the ashes of every
peril my enemies have sent after me
so don't think you will ever conquer

who i am because i refuse
to be anyone and anything less
than who i am,
i embrace my wilds.

Linda M. Crate's works have been published in numerous magazines and anthologies both online and in print. She is the author of seven poetry chapbooks, the latest of which is: *the samurai* (Yellow Arrow Publishing, October 2020). She's also the author of the novel *Phoenix Tears* (Czykmate Books, June 2018). Recently she has published three full-length poetry collections *Vampire Daughter* (Dark Gatekeeper Gaming, February 2020), *The Sweetest Blood* (Cyberwit, February 2020), and *Mythology of My Bones* (Cyberwit, August 2020).