

Linda M. Crate – Two Poems

for eternity

you saw a crown full
of light,
and started dreaming of a
kingdom that wasn't yours
to take;

you realized your mistake when you
recognized that i was feminine not fragile—

i contain multitudes
like persphone i can give both flowers and dreams
or chaos and death,

and if you thought your darkness could defeat me
you were wrong;

but since you were so kind to kiss me
with some of your nightmares
i've decided to return the favor—

may you feel their fangs, talons, and rage
for eternity.
-linda m. crate

wings, wilds, feral

they all tried to tell me
who to be,
as if they were the ones
carrying these dreams
and these bones;

i gave up carrying the vision
of me they wanted to see
many moons ago—

i was always told i should
care what people thought of me,
but i have a resounding indifference
when it comes to their opinions of me;

don't need them to know who i am—

because a person defines
themselves,
and i carve light out of every
darkness and nightmare they give me
in hopes of destruction;

and i have wings, wilds, and feral
to protect me from their wrath.
-linda m. crate

Linda M. Crate's poetry, short stories, articles, and reviews have been published in a myriad of magazines both online and in print. She has ten published chapbooks: *A Mermaid Crashing Into Dawn* (Fowlpox Press - June 2013), *Less Than A Man* (The Camel Saloon - January 2014), *If Tomorrow Never Comes* (Scars Publications, August 2016), *My Wings Were Made to Fly* (Flutter Press, September 2017), *splintered with terror* (Scars Publications, January 2018), *More Than Bone Music* (Clare Songbirds Publishing House, March 2019), *the samurai* (Yellow Arrowing Publishing, October 2020), *Follow the Black Raven* (Alien Buddha Publishing, July 2021), *Unleashing the Archers* (Guerilla Genesis Press, August 2021), and *Hecate's Child* (Alien Buddha Publishing, November 2021) and three micro-chapbooks *Heaven Instead* (Origami Poems Project, May 2018), *moon mother* (Origami Poems Project, March 2020), and *& so I believe* (Origami Poems Project, April 2021). She is also the author of the novel *Phoenix Tears* (Czykmate Books, June 2018).