

Madlynn Haber – Three Poems

sisters

we were left behind
ill equipped for the journey
something was left out
pieces missing
more than enough tears, though

We can cry.

no compassion between us
too much scarcity
not enough to go around
we stole from one another
what little time there was

put together maybe
there might have been enough
but we each took less
than our share and hid it away
before it was all gone

When Madness Calls

Reminding me of madness,
he calls now and then.
Hyper with words spilling
out in almost a babble,
a small giggle propels them.

Other days, words slide,
sloth-like, slow like syrup
from a mind stilled by despair.
Language selected from a vocabulary
cultivated in an Ivy League education
cut short by the onset of madness.

Seeing how a mind flows to the edges,
blurring the horizons between then,
now, and imaginary times. Traveling
with madness opens portals
to unusual views, tinted with colors
as if in a dream, but no one is asleep.

With soft reflections, a welcoming voice
I respond to him. Always answer his calls.
Gratitude flows between us, an exchange,
for the call and for the response.

The Stories We Tell Ourselves

We tell ourselves origin stories.
The origin of our longing,
just needing to have our hearts
break one more time. Reimagining
the abandonment, the slamming door,
footsteps going down stairs, license
plate receding as the car pulls away.
A moment that broke us the first time.

We retell our own hero's story.
Breaking through barriers,
smashing fences, leaving behind
broken slats with rough edges.
Climbing up a tree, hoisting oneself
onto a limb, then looking down
seeing it all from a new perspective.

Repeating a success story with its praise
seeing glimpses of ourselves triumphant
edifices constructed, heights scaled,
the success in bringing to another
a sweet, baked pie, a warm cup of tea.

Eyes twinkle, fill with tears at the unraveling,
as each of the stories we tell ourselves
finds the way to its own conclusion.

Madlynn Haber lives in Northampton, Massachusetts. Her work appears in the anthology *Letters to Fathers from Daughters*, and many journals including *Anchor Magazine*, *Mothers Always Write*, *Random Sample*, *Club Plum Literary Journal*, *Ariel Chart International Literary Journal*, *The Sunlight Press*, *Sparks of Calliope*, *Dissonance Magazine*, *Buddhist Poetry Review*. www.madlynnwrites.com