

Marge Piercy – Three Poems

What she sees

I look out onto our land.
Raised beds under snow do
indeed look like beds, well
made ones I could lie on.

The world is anonymous
under its thick wrapping.
Only the surface criss-
crossed with small tracks

speaks of motion and life.
Willow the cat stares out
at what I can't guess. Cats
live in a separate world from

us, populated with beings
and ghosts we can't know.
Her eyes follow something.
Her ears prick forward. She

tenses, lashing tale. I look but
observe nothing but snow.
My world is monotonous white.
Hers seethes with excitement.

The journey we go on with them

Tomato seedlings are spindly
some just pale green threads.
At this stage, a breeze could
break them, not enough water

too much shrivel their tiny
bodies. They need heat,
light, food. Their shells
cast off, nutrients eaten.

Who can imagine the jungle
they'll create, looming dense
and fierce in August, laden
with so much fruit they claim

our days to harvest, can
and of course gobble them
raw, cooked, in salads. Our
meals, ruled by their fruit.

And then they're all gone
and we have only sauce.

With other animals we go

Sleep is that other world
we try to inhabit nightly.
The place we're absolved
of worry, or presence, of thought.

Then there's that place where
everything is possible: the dead
walk and talk with us, old
lovers we never forgave lie

with us under strange trees
with fruit of big rubies, topaz.
Monsters who haunted child-
hood leap out from ambush.

We go willingly into sleep;
we summon it with pills, teas.
breathing exercises even
though the terrain's unknown.

Every night we can, we melt into
darkness and become strangers.

Marge Piercy has published 20 poetry collections, most recently, *On The Way Out, Turn Off The Light* [Knopf, September 30, 2020]; 17 novels including *Sex Wars*. PM Press reissued *Vida, Dance The Eagle To Sleep*; they brought out short stories *The Cost of Lunch, Etc.* and *My Body, My Life* [essays, poems]. She has read at over 500 venues here and abroad.