

## Marianne Peel

### Forgive Me, I Won't Call on Sundays Anymore

I am better off calling during halftime. But I don't know what game you are watching. Can't calculate the hours lost between us. You in Mountain time. Me in Eastern time.

You refuse to mute. Not wanting to miss a pass. An interception. The moment when your guy crosses the line and flings his helmet into the air. The moment the pigskin sails through the goalpost.

To fill the silence during commercials, I tell of the brake job at Midas. How I needed new pads and shoes. How the car no longer pulls to the right or left after alignment. How streaks on the windshield signal I need new blades to see in the storm.

You are my mechanic father. Grease still in the cracks of your palms. Grease still gathered under your nails.

For years you handed the phone to mom. Afterward she'd give you a Readers Digest version. Condensed. Now it is just us. You pick up the phone, ask *Marianne, who?* I regret dialing. Giving you the opportunity to not know who I am.

After having taught middle and high school English for 32 years, **Marianne Peel** is now nurturing her own creative spirit. Retired from the classroom, she occasionally engages in Field Instructor work with various universities, supervising education interns in the classroom. Marianne has also taught classes in Social Coaching for autistic adults. Further, she has spent three summers in Guizhou Province, teaching best practices to teachers in China. She has also received Fulbright-Hays Awards to Nepal (2003) and Turkey (2009). Marianne was recently a finalist in the Wheelbarrow Poetry Prize at Michigan State University. She also won the Poetry Prize and the Genre Prize at Jelly Bucket Literary Magazine, receiving a Summer Residency Award at Eastern Kentucky University (2017). Marianne participated in Marge Piercy's Juried Intensive Poetry Workshop (2016) as well as Anita Skeen's Narrative Poetry Workshop at Georgia O'Keefe's Ghost Ranch in New Mexico. Further, Marianne received First Place Poetry Prize with ESME (Empowering Solo Moms Everywhere). Marianne's poetry appears in *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Belle Reve Literary Journal*, *Jelly Bucket Literary Journal*, *EastLit Magazine*, *Remembered Arts Journal*, *Ophelia's Mom*, and *Literary Orphans*, among others. Most recently, she has poetry published in *Unmasked: Women Write About Sex and Intimacy after 50*. In addition, Marianne has poetry in *We Got This: Solo Mom Stories of Grit, Heart and Humor*, which was awarded a Silver Medal by Independent

Publisher Book Awards. Most recently, several of Marianne's poems were awarded prizes in Chicago's Annual Poets and Patrons Poetry Contest. She has a collection of poetry forthcoming in 2021 from Shadelandhouse Modern Press.