

## Rose Mary Boehm

### At the Oyster Bar

He looks at her.  
She is wielding the short,  
stocky oyster knife  
with expertise.

She looks at him.  
Wants to open his mouth  
with the knife but fears  
finding a pearl.

### Baggage

I have escaped the dark side of the stones  
where only bugs hide. Slabs of hardness  
gave no succor but my frozen fountain  
gave me water, gravel's rasping voices  
sang me to sleep, perhaps that's what it was.  
You ask where I was born. I say Germany.  
You think war. You think Jews. You think *wunder*.  
I say childhood made from faulty pieces,  
a puzzle with no satisfactory outcome.  
Pockmarked playgrounds, dead rabbits,  
rabble, rubble, revivals, renegades,  
revelations. When the deluge comes again,  
I shall open wide, let myself be cleaned.

A German-born UK national, **Rose Mary Boehm** lives Lima, Peru. Author of one full-length poetry collection and two chapbooks, her work has been widely published in mostly US poetry journals. Her latest full-length poetry MS, *The Rain Girl*, has been accepted for publication in June 2020 by Blue Nib. Her poem, *Old Love's Sonnet* has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Shark Reef Journal* where it was published in the Summer of 2019.