

#FemkuMag



Issue 12

#FemkuMag

An e-zine of Women's Haiku

May 2019

issue twelve

Editor: Lori A Minor

Cover art: Lori A Minor

**cover art inspired by Kelly Sauvage Angel's "storm warning"*

a note from me to you

As always, I'd like to thank everyone who submitted to this journal. It might be little, but it is powerful. An even bigger thank you to everyone who has supported this journal throughout the past year- YES. ONE YEAR! It's so surreal that #FemkuMag has done so well in such a short period of time. Submissions have doubled in number since the first issue. I could not be doing this without you ladies. You exceed my expectations for every issue and have truly brought my vision to life.

Next month is another special issue. Women all over the world are still fighting for their rights and recently in the US, we have been losing our rights state by state. Because of this, I have decided that next month will be a themed issue, focusing on sexual assault, violence against women, women's reproductive rights, gender equality. Full submission instructions on the last page of this issue and on the website.

Also, be sure to check out a STUNNING Femku Feature by Terri French in the back of this issue.

*stay rad,
Lori A Minor, editor*

In Honor of Mother's Day

mother's magical hands by Hifsa Ashraf

*sleep pillows
with white chrysanthemums
she embroidered
all her dreams
after his sudden departure*

*white doilies
in the wooden trunk
she left behind
the intricate story
of her hardships*

*being a single mother
and a bread seller
her toils
leave only the burn scars
on her body*

*the aroma
of mustard greens
out reaching
my mother's memories
to the white tent*

*a refugee mother
secretly mends all night
white frocks
that she gets for her daughters
as hand-me-downs*

storm warning the flight of a thousand pride flags

- Kelly Sauvage Angel

how i adore the idea of you metta meditation

- Kelly Sauvage Angel

*treating myself
to a dandelion bouquet
mother's day*

- Kelly Sauvage Angel

*routine check-up
my fear to look
beyond*

- Radostina Dragostinova

spring cleaning vacuuming birdsong

- Elizabeth Alford

summer lineup
the hottest new shade
of rose bushes

-Elizabeth Alford

soapy straw
her first kiss
taking shape

- Elizabeth Alford

holiday greetings
to birth mom -
scorpion sting

- Roberta Beach Jacobson

covered up
yet
butt naked

- Roberta Beach Jacobson

web of silk
one loose strand
in his story

- Julie Warther

more and more
I learn to trust
aging tulip

- Julie Warther

mistake rib stitch
the beauty of
my imperfections

- Lucy Whitehead

painted eggs –
the promises
you made

- Lucy Whitehead

all day rain
a sadness that won't
wash away

- **Lucy Whitehead**

pink roses
letting go their bloom
tea house ladies

- **Anna Cates**

passing by
my cemetery grave
scent of lilac

- **Veronika Zora Novak**

in bloom
this ghost flower . . .
and yet

- **Veronika Zora Novak**

thunderheadfulofcloudsintheforecastrain

- **Debbie Strange**

scented
wind
today
we
will
make
potpourri

- **Debbie Strange**

firefinch . . .
they tell me to look
on the bright side

- **Debbie Strange**

he
shamanic
[she manic]

- **Helen Buckingham**

shrugging off
the grey
it's her time to rise

- **Helen Buckingham**

dabbing her lip
with a tissue
blood moon

- **Helen Buckingham**

heartbeat
in some way
we speak

- **Guliz Mutlu**

awareness -
stunned by morphine
my father embraces me

consapevolezza -
stordito dalla morfina
mio padre mi abbraccia

- **Maria Teresa Sisti**

you're not back -
night breeze
on my naked neck

non sei tornato -
sul mio cpllo nudo
brezza notturna

- **Maria Teresa Sisti**

*Japanese apricot
the walls we build
around ourselves*

- Erin Castaldi

*willing the past
to remain alive
tsunami*

- Erin Castaldi

*pay cut
the rich furs
sable and rat*

- Erin Castaldi

*a tight squeeze -
the half-window
of opportunity*

- Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

raven's shadow all I have to surrender

- Hifsa Ashraf

*child bride —
she insists on wearing
the daisy tiara*

- Hifsa Ashraf

*preliminary diagnosis
the flying crows tattoo
on her back*

- Hifsa Ashraf

*disability pass
they watch
until they see the cane*

- Elizabeth Crocket

*news of his death
a secret
buried*

- Elizabeth Crocket

*the cold front
moving between us...
Mother's Day*

- Cyndi Lloyd

*my self-talk
hailstones pummel
the petunia bed*

- Cyndi Lloyd

*rabbit hole
the hollow feeling
in my heart*

- Christina Sng

*long-time love
the lingering aroma
of lavender*

- Christina Sng

*windstorm
the suicide
of leaves*

- Christina Sng

*overgrown garden
silence in her house
sounds differently*

- Nina Kovačić

*a letter from son
the censorship stamp
fades away*

- Marta Chocilowska

*the skype call
on our old pear tree
empty nest*

- Marta Chocilowska

*a window
the old couple
cheek to cheek*

- Marta Chocilowska

*that donor letter
shoved inside a drawer
never read*

- Dianne Moritz

*constant cat fights
what I wouldn't give
for a do-over*

- Dianne Moritz

*panic attacks
like tsunamis
of the soul*

- Dianne Moritz

*warming oceans
the silence between us
still icy*

- Vandana Parashar

*overworked
can a mother ever
play possum*

- Vandana Parashar

*light as a feather
on my old swing...
osteoporosis*

- Lavana Kray

*swallows -
the disorder
in the air*

- Benedetta Cardone

*emerging breasts...
my fingers softly touch
a rosebud*

- Praniti Ishaan

*first bra...
my chest takes on
a new shape*

- Praniti Ishaan

*papyrus
mother said to bend
but not break*

- Kath Abela Wilson

*night bloomer
the flowers I keep
under my hat*

- Kath Abela Wilson

*hot summer night
stars fill the bed of his pickup
my last first kiss*

- Kimberly Spring

*the scent
of the way we were -
mimosas*

- Angiola Inglese

on hands and knees manhole

- Christina Chin

*stretching her fingers
red nails*

- Christina Chin

*low clouds ...
memories I hide
even from myself*

*nuvole basse...
i ricordi nascosti
anche a me stessa*

- Lucia Cardillo

*tampon box
my father chooses
self-checkout*

- Tia Haynes

remembering I am without mother's day

- Tia Haynes

pruning the family tree full disclosure

- Tia Haynes

*memorial service...
sunshafts touching
the baby's toes*

- Theresa A. Cancro

*police siren...
the hard stare
of an inner-city kid*

- Theresa A. Cancro

*end of a marriage...
yellow stains
on the tablecloth*

- Réka Nyitrai

*grandma's blanket...
mending the last tear
a scent of roses*

- Elisabetta Castagnoli

*asterisks of steri strips
a family's history
of breast cancer*

- Deborah P Kolodji

*fried fish
only the bones
of what we once had*

- Deborah P Kolodji

*things I remember
about my mother -
immortelles*

- Angelescu Cristina

*paper marbling -
I'm starting to have
mixed emotions*

- Angelescu Cristina

dance school application filling out her first bra

- Martha Magenta

*blood moon
a schoolgirl hides
her curse*

- Martha Magenta

*bulletproof
I let him
punch me again*

- Alice Harper

gaslighting a new version of me

- Alice Harper

rape it's just the Ambien

- Alice Harper

*his and her underwear
on the makeshift clothesline—
stinging nettles*

- Corine Timmer

*first tongue kiss. . .
I don't understand
what the fuss is about*

- Corine Timmer

*withered roses...
a love story
ended too soon*

- Rosa Maria Di Salvatore

admitting he hit me hailstorm

- Lori A Minor

flood warning my stress period

- Lori A Minor

Femku Feature by Terri French

The Changling

Dad tenses when I hug him goodnight and gives me a terse pat on the back. Before putting on my pajamas I stand naked in front of the full-length mirror hanging on the back of my bedroom door. I'm changing. A couple of angry looking pimples have sprung up on my chin. My tender breasts are swelling and rounding, the nipples darkening and jutting out proudly. I cross my arms over my chest and look down at my pudgy belly and the thin patch of curly dark hair below. I wish it would all go away. I feel so ugly. I want to be a little girl again. I want to be someone my father could love.

*school bus stop
a fledgling shudders
on the sidewalk*

Submission Instructions for June 2019

Women only, including non-binary and transwomen.

THEME: sexual assault, violence against women, women's reproductive rights, gender equality - we have all been there. It's time to come together and fight this. #smashthepatriarchy

*I know that topics like this can be hard for some to talk about. With that being said, if you'd still like to share your story, but do not want to use your name, **PLEASE** feel free to use a pen name or submit anonymously.*

What is accepted for March:

*haiku, senryu, tanka - I am keeping it to shorter forms because I believe for this topic, it is **IMPORTANT** to say **as much as possible** in as few lines as possible.*

*Please send no more than 5 pieces **TOTAL** to femkumag@gmail.com between June 1st and 20th.*

For this issue I will consider unpublished and published work as long as you retain rights to the work you submit. Please indicate if a piece you submit has been previously published and include publication credits.

** I will not publish anything that **condones** violence, racism, or prejudice against any person, or group of people.*