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ILONA MARTONFI

Red Taffeta

The dress I didn't wear to your wedding,
a red taffeta frock
the cranberry red I didn't buy:
it was not practical.

My sister would know how to dress:
silk taffeta strapless gown,
posing beside her husband.

She knows how to be feminine:
she always got the boyfriends,

she knows.

I was molested by my fourth grade teacher.
I would know how to be a woman
at nine, at ten.
A girl in a black and white school photo:
I would be beautiful,
I know

I would not have this secret:

I want to be my sister.

Silk taffeta strapless gown,
posing beside her husband.
Erna's surgery scars,
cancer-free,
fifteen years on.

Ilona Martonfi's first book of poems, Blue Poppy, was published in 2009 (Coracle Press) and her chapbook, Visiting the Ridge in 2004 (Coracle). Martonfi's poems have appeared in Vallum, Carte Blanche, The Fiddlehead, Poetry Quebec, Serai, Poets Against War. Poet, activist, teacher, editor; Founder/Producer/Host of The Yellow Door and Visual Arts Centre Readings; co-founder Lovers and Others.