

## JANE EATON HAMILTON

### E. Coli, Walkerton

Water scours the pots. Water relieves heat waves  
We drank from a sweating pitcher  
The body is 90% water  
On that hot afternoon her ankles swelled, and then—  
When he said, “I love you, Mom”  
he was telling her that he once floated happily in her  
water

Water falls from the skies  
Through hell  
Water rises cataclysmically  
Don’t throw out the baby  
Water freezes at 0 degrees C  
Water plunges over rocks and down hillsides  
You’re in hot water now

Water is the biggest international resource  
Water is a solvent  
Oil is immiscible in water  
Water is tasteless and odourless  
In Tanzania, children run to Jeeps begging for water  
People are dying of thirst  
in Haiti, the water is malarial  
Women carry water jugs on their heads  
You take to mah jongg like a duck to water  
Many creatures swim in water  
Water is a simple pleasure in a shower  
You are wet behind the ears  
Noodles boil in water

A child can live three days without water  
Salt water is 71% of the globe  
Water boils at 68 degrees C  
Still water runs deep  
Water is a chemical compound with the formula H<sub>2</sub>O  
Water can be solid or vaporous  
Hydrology is its study

He would have told her  
blood is thicker than water  
if she hadn’t been so sick  
He would have said I’m sorry  
But water was what he cried  
when they wheeled her away

*Jane Eaton Hamilton is the author, most recently, of “Love Will Burst into a Thousand Shapes.” She has twice won first prize in the CBC Literary Awards (2003/2014).*

## ILONA MARTONFI

### Clamdigger

Knowing the times of low tide  
go to the flats when the tide is down  
all you need is a rake

once the tides are low  
go to the Hyannis Mall bookstore  
across from the Holiday Inn  
the air-conditioning

in the parking lot, seagulls  
etched into sand

buy a book  
on abusive relationships,  
*Getting Free*

your youngest, only six  
a young boy  
three teenage daughters.

All you need is a rake  
once the tides are low  
build a sandcastle  
collect mollusk shells

take coloured photographs  
beach, sand dunes, seaweed algae

hide the book in your bag  
under blue cotton jeans

read it in the hotel room  
when he is at the indoor pool

in the evening go out for dinner  
at Villa Vecchione on Main Street  
beside the Pauper’s Cemetery

pink wild roses  
grey-shingled cottages.

*Ilona Martonfi is the author of three poetry books, Blue Poppy (2009), Black Grass (2012) and The Snow Kimono (2015). She is the founder/producer of The Yellow Door and Visual Arts Centre Readings, and the co-founder of Lovers and Others. She is also the recipient of the QWF 2010 Community Award.*