

ROS TIERNEY

The Morning Swim

As I swim each morning
swim to regain my health
swim to regain my sanity
swim for the joy of it

the clear clean water caressing my body
soothing my soul
drowning my thoughts
I am buoyed and lifted by the sparkling water

feeling my muscles strengthen with each stroke
swimming to wellness.
My thoughts drift to my sisters in India
I feel guilty swimming in fresh clean water

knowing their hardship
carrying water, waiting days for the taps to run
conserving every drop
wasting none.

Squandering such a precious commodity?
Knowing my privilege
I say thank you
and swim on.

Rosalind Tierney is a feminist, witch and traveller, currently living in Crystal Beach.

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ILONA MARTONFI

What was her name?

Blue plum tree blossom

where the Moosgraben flows
and the oh so quiet wordless world of a child

buried creek

bog willow, forsythia, grow in bomb craters
odour of spring
the odour of mortuary
two-story red brick house:
Halle 7 by the Rollbahn
old airport Neutraubling,
Barvarian Forest chalk hills ridge

tell her, she was not the only one

blue plum tree blossom
all around the yard
the odour of death
the odour of spring
yellow forsythia
maroon cotton dress
white ribbed knee socks

pigtailed Magyar refugee of nine
teacher molesting her

what was her name?
Yellow sunshine
moor nunnery

blue plum tree.

Ilona Martonfi is the author of three poetry books, Blue Poppy (Coracle Press, 2009), Black Grass (Broken Rules Press, 2012) and, most recently, The Snow Kimono (Inanna, 2015). Ilona has published in Vallum, Accenti, The Fiddlhead, and Serai. 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.