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## KAY EGINTON

### Hospital

Lying in hospital, as the British say  
Cleanliness, order arrives in its antiseptic way.

I decide to roll over, sleep in crisp, clean sheets  
Measures of fertility and poems soon arrive  
In the fine, great hospital of rhyme.

In a dream, I scan the back lot  
Covered in nettles as it sometimes is  
Nettles that sting, challenging  
"Don't touch! You'll frighten the fairies  
away."

A dream only, of course.  
I dream, a cool day, crisp sheets  
And not too much string.  
Wandering the ordered corridors of time.

Wondering.

*Kay R. Eginton is the author of Poems (1981). Kay has also been a contributor to Lyrical Iowa, a publication of the Iowa Poetry Association. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa.*

## CASSANDRA MYERS

### Autobiography of Cassandra

I saw the fall of Troy in a vision—  
a wooden beast charging through city gates,  
men gifted daggers from my father's armory  
worming its belly

—for I was the arborist  
who surgeoned the timber steed and spit the  
gasoline of truth  
on my people's velvet robes.

They shook their heads twice—like a blind  
horse.

The first when a man  
stripped the bark from my kneeled limbs. The  
last when the men  
impregnated the sequoian stallion.

She's confused, they said,  
roused too early from a midday nap.

Swinging a flaming hatchet  
at my devilish pet, my mother snatched me by  
my scalp  
to save what was left of our family name.

A mad woman's curse is reverse psychology—  
doing what's expected  
to be clinically unbelievable, sterilized

of violence. I pulled out a hair for every person  
I told. I bought  
a parthenon of flame-retardant wigs:  
the perch from which I watched their chorus of  
red hot apologies.  
I died old with a clean scalp and a cleaner  
conscience.

*The 2015 Femme Youth Poet of the World, Cassandra Myers has performed on international stages at the National Poetry Slam, the Women of the World Poetry Slam, Brave New Voices, and the College Unions Poetry Slam Invitational. A member of the Toronto Poetry Project and the President of the Ryerson University poetry slam club, Poetic Exchange, Cassandra is the forward momentum behind the Toronto slam poetry community.*