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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 touuch! 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.