

I flee the sun—
head towards water—

dive deeper—
to drown

Bänoo Zan has numerous poems and three books, including Songs of Exile and Letters to My Father. She founded Shab-e She'r, Toronto's most diverse and brave poetry series in 2012.

KATHY ASHBY

Beautiful Black

Once upon a time we could see night as it
was meant to be
black,
tired, we slid our skin under skins
eyes open
as light dimmed it held down our limbs
relaxed, nothing needed to be brave about
anonymous black
commenced descent

in lap of obscurity, indistinct lover
fetching sweetness
twinkled and sprinkled
sifted and drifted
hovered and covered
wrapped and packeted

dawn far to come
our impatience numb
we savoured the nothingness
yet fancied the fullness
the void and the thatness
of beautiful blackness

Kathy's poetry and stories have appeared in publications such as Descant Magazine, Canadian Woman Studies Magazine, Chicken Soup for the Soul and broadcast on the CBC Radio program Outfront. Author of the book Carol 'A Woman's Way' (DreamCatcher). Kathy is also an Associate Member of the Canadian League of Poets.

MEGHAN EAKER

best interests for whom

the white decision makers
sit around the table bloated
with good intentions

eurocentric ethical principles
weaponized to willingly

(un)knowingly administer
the colonial project
with a self-satisfied smile

to justify stealing yet another
indigenous child

to purposefully withhold vital services
to use as a reward
when we are finally
forced to give up
our children

to normalize the theft
of our bodies
from our homes
our lands

in their eyes to be an indian
is to be in need of rescuing

they flock to us
to provide it
mercifully

demanding our gratitude
for their selfless labour

are we destined
to be continuous casualties
of a system of recycled
white saviours?

Meghan Eaker (she/they) is an amiskwaciwaskahikan (Treaty 6) based poet, registered nurse, and artist of european and nehiyaw (Cree) ancestry. She is a member of the Woodland Cree First Nation in Treaty 8 and is pursuing a PhD in Indigenous Studies at the University of Alberta, studying storysharing as a creative practice towards miyo pimatisiwin (a good life) for two-spirit, trans, and queer Indigenous youth.