LYNDSAY DANIEL

Women’s Clinic Hush

The soul has whiplash; needing therapeutic dilatations, Anyone would want for rest. Medication in thin, continuous skewers of metal, Opening against mother’s accord. The slate beneath, giving way, inviting you to take your place —That corner of hell, the elder’s chant of your descent, inches from the window.

Contractions and tissue barter violently beneath what he found as pliable. Descent silence and personal abjection—— A prescription implicit to mental survival. The bucket beneath filling with you; A mask is inspecting and grading the retraction of flesh.

Coil on the cotton, proficiently hiding the bloom, The pattern - like first blood that guarantees your place of purity. It is heating up beneath you, Soothing your aching body, Inducing a lull of silken movements, Someone will clean you up, Attaching something to that gapping Hole. Stuffing something inside you, sewing it up.

Where do you take your blue gowned body? Standing smooth outside, blood cakes Your tiny eyes closed. Quietly and persistently you edge off the curb. A steely weapon barreling towards you—— They say you murdered today, why stop your spree? Your body rips apart, and spreads itself around.

DONNA J. GELAGOTIS LEE

A Life of Blood

Mood as steady as a seesaw. Then, sleep slips...starts slipping...I medicate. I think, maybe it’s...

and sure enough, the body releases its bloody flow- and I am surprised at my displeasure- hoping to have dissed it- 60 is looking good!- if I’m not harboring a genetic landmine that trips off- don’t believe it gets better unless you plan to beat time with a stick, your muscles to plump up your skin, unless you plan to pass this irregular time with fortitude until you regain something of what you initially lost in service to a life of blood

Lyndsay Daniel is the Education Coordinator for the Sexual Assault Centre in Halton, Ontario. She has completed both a BA and MA from McMaster University (English/Women Studies), and is a part-time instructor at Sheridan College and Mohawk College in the Creative Writing and Liberal Studies Departments.

Donna J. Gelagotis Lee’s poems have appeared or are forthcoming in Atlantis: A Women’s Studies Journal, CALYX: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women, Descant, Feminist Studies and other journals.