

Driving Ahead

by Lori Lematta

Barely visible in the rearview mirror skips
An innocent girl beaming with joy.

Lingering in the rearview mirror are youthful
dreams of being an architect; envisioning
my own stable home with a central atrium
and a grand library.

In the rearview mirror, I see my old, worn out
friend, Alcoholism. She's over two miles down
the road now. Left to stand beside her
are the ghosts of my dear family with their
hurt, angry, ignorant eyes.

In the rearview mirror, sulks my ungrateful
self littered with loss.

Reflected in the rearview mirror is my smile
of gratitude to them for staying behind
and for killing off the old life so that this
new one has space to flourish.

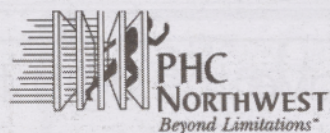
Driving ahead I spot an eccentric lady
donning a spring flower dress and
long, silver hair, reminiscent of
Georgia O'Keeffe.
She is skipping.

Vision, reflected in sun by Rachel D
Vision, reflected in sun
hazel-green glistening back
hiding darkness, swirling.
Bronzed black plum, like a crow,
set atop dark austere,
rich with potential.
The sun looks good on you,
yet you hate it.

What Can You Glean?

by John R. Brown

Who are these guys, these senior citizens
who park their nice Italian bikes behind
the fancy-schmancy grocery on the corner
off Capital and Barbur? They are not hoboes.
They dress too nicely, shave and groom.
Two men, one slim, one stout, in almost matching
polo jerseys, sandals, and unfortunately
spandex shorts. This is the clue that something
is not right. These almost comical men
head straight to the dumpster, flip up the lid,
and dig in. They rifle through the bin
chuckling as they uncover treasures.
An orange! Most of a bag of potato chips!
A pint bottle of Old Crow. at least a splash
of whiskey! They cackle with delight and toast
the morning sun. One capful apiece!
Now off to the doughnut shop
where they will be the youngest in the room.



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