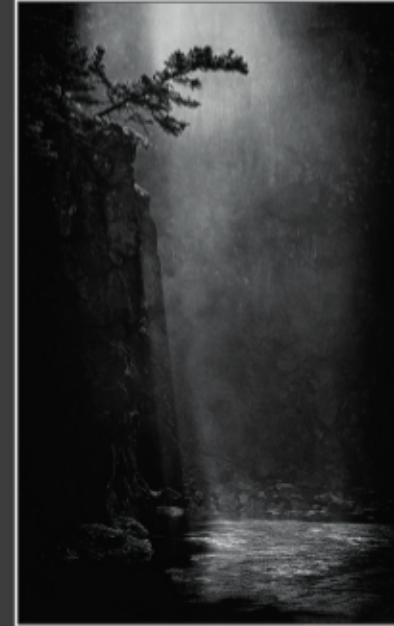


CANCER'S ROGUE SEASON

MARLENE GRAND MAÎTRE



*photograph by Kas Stone*

**Blind To Me**

Will my afterimage shimmer in the kitchen window,  
near the wooden swing on the porch? My fingerprints remain—

how tightly I hang on as the untamed, its muck and its musk  
multiplies among ruins. A house with broken locks, my body

has been breached. Feral cells have squatted, their dark  
chemistry unleashed in swollen lymph nodes' damp chambers,

my defences outwitted, depleted by earlier intruders.  
Under a waning moon, I glide high above an unforgiving

lake, watch a younger self float on her back  
in our old fresh-water lair, Superior's deep cold so familiar,

it is a kind of warmth. The Norway spruce and poplar are aloof.  
On the shore she scavenges for wild blueberries and saskatoons.

I am flooded by a longing to find a stillness  
in the flux, to inhabit more of my life's rooms. I have lived

in too few of them, stayed in its hallways, protected  
by the thick carapace of survival.

My body a failing refuge, I run towards something that recedes  
into the forest, the silver eyes of birches blind to me.

**about the author**

MARLENE GRAND MAÎTRE worked for many years in various programmes for women abused by intimate partners. She was a counsellor/facilitator in an employment training programme, and also worked in academic and public libraries.

She grew up on the edge of Lake Superior, enchanted by the bleak beauty of that landscape, and now lives in lush Victoria, BC, on the unceded traditional territory of the Lkwungen people.

Her poetry has appeared in a number of anthologies and has been published in the following literary journals: *Prairie Fire*, *The Malabat Review*, *Grain*, *The Antigonish Review*, *Event*, *CV2*, *Freefall Magazine*, *Pottersfield Portfolio*, and *Island Writer*.

A poem published in *The Antigonish Review* was longlisted for *Best Canadian Poetry In English 2011* and she has won prizes, including *Freefall Magazine's* 2013 poetry competition, and the Federation of BC Writers' 2015 poetry prize.



**about the artist**

KAS STONE is a photographic artist and writer based on Nova Scotia's Atlantic coast, where she finds plenty of inspiration in the wild scenery and moody weather right outside her door. Her portfolio includes an extensive list of publications, exhibitions, workshops and multi-media projects.

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