

Kate Aver Avraham

Thirty-four Years Later

Mid-October. I snap green beans
in the back yard,
while the tilting bronze sun
of autumn evening
has its way with everything
I thought I knew.

There is a presence here,
gilded, prophetic.
Small, nondescript brown birds
arrive, so beautiful
in their persistent pursuit of seed.
Plump feathered ambassadors that return
no matter who is unfaithful in the White House,
who testified, who told lies...

What do any of them really know
compared to the truth I face every October-
memories of freckles fading
on my dying son's face,
his desire to live, our desperate hope,
my screams echoing in a Pediatric ward.

I remember the young surgeon, dark and kind,
anguish on his face as he told us, *brain dead*.
How does any mother connected
to her precious one by an endless
invisible umbilical cord live on?

There is a moment of eternity that hangs
in every perfect love-filled goodbye.
An exquisite knowing that nothing can ever
separate you from flesh and bone,

heart and soul of the child you bore,
epitome of all you dreamed possible,
his essence returning, like the cosmos,
over and over into the indigo reach of time.

Just For a While Longer

I want to pry night open
until constellations pour stars
into the arms of my longing.
Want to ride on the light of another blue moon
whip along with autumn wind
gusting in silver-lit trees.
I want to love, full on
in a tangle of limbs and lips,
then sigh for about an hour
because I feel like it.
Let me go into the streets,
greet people I don't know,
make eye contact with all
those windows into their souls.
I'm not done with this, tender, merciless incarnation.
Just for a while longer
I want to feel life
jumping up inside me,
spinning me 'round and round in circles
of wonder.

Kate Aver Avraham is a published poet and children's author. Her poetry has appeared in numerous anthologies and magazines including *Sisters Singing*; *Nimrod International Journal*; *Porter Gulch Review*; *Homestead Review*. Her chapbook, *Perhaps the Truth is Also Blue*, won the Celebration of the Muse/Poetry Santa Cruz publication prize in 2010. Her children's books include: *Joey's Way* (MacMillan/Margaret McElderry Books) and *What Will You Be, Sara Mee?* (Charlesbridge)

Publishing, Boston). Due out in 2019 is *We Are All Related*, biography of Patrick, Yana-hea, Orozco, Chief and Chairman of the Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council; and a poetry collection titled *Just For A While Longer*. Kate lives in Santa Cruz, CA in the house she grew up in near the sea she loves.