

A Poem by Cathy Barber

Porn Star Name

Have you figured out your porn star name?
Take the name of your first pet,
probably from your distant childhood,
add the first street you called home,
doesn't matter if you loved your room
or fought daily with your brother. Lastly

combine the two; the street is your last
name while your pet is your first name.
Then, when lazing in your current room
you can think fondly of your long dead pet
and the distant street you once called home
yet forge an alter ego for the edgy hood.

If you just happen to be an adult star, this could
be a handy invention, last
vestige of innocence and girlish home
now reborn into your professional name.
Me? I'm Peppy Woodvue. Fortuitous pet
name but, for a female, the street leaves room

for improvement. Maybe it was the room
itself I should have used. Peppy Bedroom would
coax the men into the theater, sticky carpet
underfoot, to see the headliner, last
and best show of the night. There in lights,
my name
or at least Peppy's name and a bit of home.

Shouldn't we each have a private home
in a part of our brain, a secret room
for superheroes, alter-egos, and false names,
leaving behind career or motherhood?
Where we might opt to bump and grind or blast
alien invaders back to space from behind
some parapet.

Our waking lives need a good dusting.
Learn the trumpet,
or the trombone. Paint your home
pink and your nails green. Eat the last
piece of cake on the plate. Stream your bedroom
on YouTube. Wear stilettos and a hood-
ie to the board meeting, your new name

Cathy Barber's poetry has been published recently
in *Literary Mama*, *Kestrel*, and *San Diego Poetry
Annual* and is forthcoming in *Slant*,
SLAB, and *Sweet's* anthology. She is a 2013
graduate of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA
in Writing program. A past president of the board of
California Poets in the Schools and a current
member of the advisory board, Ms. Barber teaches
in classrooms in San Mateo County. She also
writes a humor and musings blog: *Is It Just
Me*. isitjustme-cathy.blogspot.com/