

## **Linda Fischer – Two Poems**

### **A Poem for Fall**

Cherish the dawn, sunlight  
tempering an overnight shower—  
the taste of cooler air  
respite from stifling heat,  
the humidity of the past week.  
Savor it as you would a prime  
cut of beef settling  
in its juices: the dogwoods  
reddening, viburnum laden  
with fists of scarlet berries,  
a flush of asters, chrysanthemums,  
farm fields of pumpkin,  
the apples of autumn coming in.  
There will be tart pies  
from the oven, sauce sweetened  
with plums, crisps bolstered  
by oatmeal and brown sugar—  
apples layered in cakes,  
casseroles, puddings, stews—  
apples tucked into school  
lunches: the season's last  
furious quickening to warm us  
before mornings darken  
and winter harries the heart  
with its biting pitiless cold.

### **The Letter**

The first rain in weeks  
a scrim between the deliberate  
heat of summer and intimations  
of fall, a layer of leaves  
alighting like a flock of birds,  
sendoff for the slim girl waiting  
between flights, hands  
on her purse, a carry-on  
gripped beneath her knees:  
not fearful—yet wary—  
caught up by the crush of strangers

milling about ticket booths,  
the confusion, the unfamiliar  
clamor, a loud speaker  
calling out like a rifle shot  
for passengers to board.  
But no, not her. She has time  
to trace a burgeoning cloud,  
heavy and gray, from a far window,  
to think what her future may hold—  
the letter, carefully folded,  
left behind in a dresser drawer,  
the unsaid bitter on her tongue.

**Linda M. Fischer's** poems have been published or are forthcoming in the *Atlanta Review*, *the Aureorean*, *Boomer LitMag*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *Josephine Quarterly*, *Poetry Porch*, *Potomac Review*, *Roanoke Review*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *SoFloPoJo*, *Valparaiso Poetry Review*, *Verse-Virtual*, *Wilderness House Literary Review*, *The Worcester Review* and elsewhere. Twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize, she has two poetry collections: *Raccoon Afternoons* and *Glory*. Her website: [lindamfischer.com](http://lindamfischer.com)