

Antonia (Toni) Clark

Women in Refrigerators*

They die of course
and not as heroically
as our heroes, but
casually, irreparably.

They're dispensable,
cold cases, women
written out of the plot
of their own lives.

They're dangerous,
women who know
too much, and then
forget to fake it.

*The term "Women in Refrigerators" was coined by Gail Simone as a name for a 1999 website about the comic book trope whereby female characters are disproportionately killed off.

Antonia (Toni) Clark works as a medical writer and editor, but has also taught creative writing and manages an online poetry workshop, The Waters. She has published a chapbook, *Smoke and Mirrors* and a full-length poetry collection, *Chameleon Moon*. Her poems and short stories have appeared in numerous print and online journals, including *The Cortland Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, and *Rattle*. Toni lives in Vermont, loves French picnics, and plays French café music on a sparkly purple accordion.