

Catherine Arra

Liebe

What can a woman

with a headful of science, a brain for math,
an intellect of armor,
a steel-edged warrior determination
to study, earn a degree,
rise above commonplace,
to be anything other than common¾
the only woman in 1896 to enter
the Swiss Federal Polytechnic,
a candidate for a diploma
and Ph.D. in mathematics and physics, yet
a woman who's never been properly kissed¾

do against

the soft-spoken sensual genius,
the barefooted violinist
when he
brown-eyed wooed her, playfully pursued her,
pleaded, placated, smiled, and inched his lips
and breath so close to her cheek, she trembled
and joyfully leapt
into an ocean of flesh.

Catherine Arra is a former high school English and writing teacher. Since leaving the classroom in 2012, her poetry and prose have appeared in numerous literary journals online and in print, and in several anthologies. She is the author of *Writing in the Ether* (Dos Madres Press, 2018) and three chapbooks, *Tales of Intrigue & Plumage* (FutureCycle Press, 2017), *Loving from the Backbone* (Flutter Press, 2015), and *Slamming & Splitting* (Red Ochre Press, 2014). Her upcoming books are *(Women in Parentheses)* (Aldrich Press) and *Her Landscape, Poems based on the life of Mileva Marić Einstein* (Finishing Line Press). Arra is a native of the Hudson Valley in upstate New York, where she teaches part-time and facilitates local writing groups. Find her at www.catherinearra.com.