

Kathy Buckert

Vanishing Twin

I devoured my other half, my twin
Absorbed her essence like oil on flesh
Jagged bone, wispy hair and blackened teeth
All tightly knit within a darkened tomb
She made me into a control freak
I couldn't prevent her vanishing into me
She made me sabotage relationships.
I lost her, the quintessential me.
Rage seeped into her minuscule world
I was birthed; she burrowed into flesh
Settling the score in sweet revenge
She endeavored to destroy me from within
Slowly she grew twisting my dirty secret
Till they ripped her out of me
Seven centimeters of life leaving my body
Immense grief filled her empty place
My twin was gone by knife and scissors
I was finally alone, the stronger one.

Kathy Buckert holds a Master's Degree in Education from St. Michael's College in Vermont. She also holds an M.F.A in Creative Writing from Goddard College's low-residency program in Plainfield, Vermont. Her work has appeared in *Riverlit*, *The Blue Hour*, *Black Mirror Magazine*, *Electric Rather*, *Silver Birch Press*, *Cheap Pop* and other publications. She is an adjunct assistant professor at Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York.