

## **Marge Piercy – Three Poems**

### **It lands**

Living with pain is like a bad  
marriage with no hope  
of divorce – stuck with  
the lasting consequences

brought on by decades  
of bad choices, fast food,  
ate too much, drank too  
much, didn't sleep enough,

exercise too boring, had  
unprotected sex with  
a good looking stranger,  
smoked to keep weight

off, hated the dentist's  
chair and the doc's advice.  
Every trivial bad habit  
now rises from the depth

of brain, of spine and belly  
coiling squeezing, fangs  
dug in. Problem: we never  
really expected to get old.

### **Grey day in August**

The air weighs down  
on my shoulders today  
as if it were years  
instead of humidity.

The sky is a woolen  
quilt sagging onto pines.  
The cats have given up.  
They ignore each other

and snooze where sun  
should be but isn't.  
it's a day in the shape  
of a yawn. Nothing

seems to be fully  
awake. This is time  
like a dull knife that  
can't cut even paper.

I want to wring  
the day dry. I want  
to find a spark any  
where anyhow. Now.

### **April and I'm grinning**

I am trying to understand  
why flowers make me happy?  
They're just the sex organs  
of plants designed to attract

some pollinator, bee or wasp,  
hummingbird – I'm incidental,  
a means to get planted,  
watered, cared for but not

essential. But I look out  
at fields of daffodils, mid-  
night blue hyacinth, snow  
drops, scilla the bright blue

of newborn kitten's eyes,  
the golden Cornelian cherry,  
the white pieri bushes, then  
a smile comes involuntary.

New snow is beautiful,  
winter trees, architectural,  
the sky always there. But  
spring knocks me silly.

I want to climb into blooms  
as a bee does and lay me  
down. I can't help it.  
Flowers make me glad.

Knopf recently brought out **Marge Piercy's** nineteenth poetry book *Made In Detroit* in paperback. *The Hunger Moon: Selected Poems* is now also in paperback. Harper Perennial has Piercy's seventeenth novel *Sex Wars* and memoir *Sleeping With Cats*. PM

Press published her first collection of short stories *The Cost Of Lunch*, republished *Dance The Eagle To Sleep*, *Vida* and *Braided Lives* with Piercy's introductions, and *My Life, My Body*, essays and poems. She has given over 500 readings, lectures, and workshops here and abroad. Her work has been translated into 21 languages.