

M. Drew Williams – Two Poems

Taking Precautions

She and I work side by side at the sink
cleaning the knives that rest beneath hot water.
They vary in age, length, and sharpness.

Earlier today I drifted off as I rode the old
lawnmower and, without knowing it,
had veered into her favorite flower garden.

Our pruning hands briefly touch, hers
brushing against mine as we both
plunge in to retrieve another grimy blade.

The mower's undercarriage had groaned from
the new intake of begonias and daffodils
and, before my awareness clicked on again,

a chewed up flurry of yellows and
pale blues was vomited outward
into a haphazard row of pulpy clumps.

We delicately push suds with our sponges
from the knives' handles to their dull edges,
taking our time with the older ones: the relics.

I had jerked the wheel back toward the grass,
additionally cutting through some perennials,
but could not correct what I had done.

We place the knives to dry point-up on the rack
where, crammed together, they collectively
resemble a bouquet of hazardous flowers

that could serve in lieu of those I destroyed.
I will tell her about the terror that awaits her
in the backyard, but first I should hide the knives.

Returning from the Hospital

From the car, he carries her into her parents'
house: up the stairs and into the room where
she and her sisters played as children.

Her grief is stronger than her need to walk.

He sets her down in the rocking chair crafted
from lumber salvaged at the site of their
old house; nearly turned to mulch last year

by a string of impromptu tornadoes.

He sits nearby at the foot of the bed; waiting
for her to speak words that do not come.

Down the hall, in the room overlooking

an unharvested potato field, propped against
a wall in the far corner, rests an unassembled
crib that no longer needs to be put together.

M. Drew Williams is a poet from Western New York. His poetry has appeared in publications such as *Literary Orphans* and *DIALOGIST*. His chapbook, *No Ghost Goes Unnoticed*, was recently released by Leaf Garden Press. He will begin his MFA candidacy at Creighton University this coming Fall. He can be found here: m-d-williams.tumblr.com