



Borderlander

Amanda Merritt

Poem:

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(2019)

About the Poet:

Amanda Merritt is a poet and a creative writing instructor from Victoria, BC. Her debut poetry collection, *The Divining Pool*, was published in October 2017 by Wundor Editions, and was nominated for the 2018 Gerald Lampert award. Previously, she was awarded the 2015 Anstruther poetry prize, and was among the finalists included in Aesthetica's 2017 Creative Writing Annual anthology. Her work appears in journals in Canada and the UK, including *Descant*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *Qwerty*, *Untethered* and *Stand*. Amanda teaches creative writing at the University of Victoria.

For further information visit: amandamerritt.ca.

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Love struck and fear bound us, for a time
we were happy, roaming the citadel
of your meiotic dreams; sovereign
of rippling strath between heart beats,
was it for dominion or salvation
that I was claimed?

Listening in at the embankment,
I was a geography of endings
where lowland feeds silt to sea;
growing stronger by day I made
preparations, for refuge is the imperative
to flee. I studied the rhythm of footfall
on flagstones, learned by touch the sinews
of containing wall, memorised the places
where mortar had softened and bricks might fall—

but what did I know of outside:
peopled by rooms of locked faces
and one-way eyes, boundary of another's skin,
for which, mother, you have risked everything.