
POETRY | FALL 2015

Eva Borrisov

By Joan Michelson

Once a week Dr. Borrisov flies
Boston-Newark for a day of teaching.
Nevermind that she's eighty-nine.
She loves her work. This is how she lives.
When her life ends, it's swift. Two nights
she paces the corridors of Bloomvale Home.
She stops at her own door, looks in, walks on.
Farewell to furniture. To future. The colon surgeon
poopees her worry. He tells her only last week,
he removed a tumour from a man of ninety-four.
It makes no difference. Eva does not recover.
Her daughter passes on her lumbar pillow
to Professor Charles on the floor below.
The professor takes the pillow everywhere
until, like Dr. Borrisov, one day it disappears.

Joan Michelson is a writer whose publications include *Toward the Heliopause* (Poetic Matrix Publishers, USA, 2011), poems, fiction, and essays in British Council anthologies, *New Writing*, volumes 3, 4, 14, 'Prognosis,' *The American Journal of Nursing*, 2012, 'The Next Week,' *The Best of Bellevue* anthology. 'Muslim Girl' won the Hamish Canham Prize from the Poetry Society of England, 2012, 'Daxon Fraser' first prize, Torriano International Competition, 2014, 'Stories," first prize, the Bristol Poetry Competition, 2015. 'Eva Borrisov' is from 'Bloomvale,' a sequence set in a Home for Assisted Living and giving a glimpse into individual lives within the aging ailing spirited community. Former Head of Creative Writing, University of Woverhampton, Michelson teaches creative writing to Medical Students at Kings College, University of London.

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