
POETRY | FALL 2016

Tandem

By Joan Michelson

The surprise of death came to her husband first.
Then she was ill. She sold the bicycles,
the two outfitted for long distance trips,

sleek and hardly used. She threw in maps
for nothing. And panniers. The school kept her
until she could not get there. A carer,

a wheelchair, a year of winter. No longer able
to make out features, know our faces,
she greeted all she passed with a loud Hello.

That's what I remember, and her face,
by then a swollen full moon red that blazed
beneath her fur-rimmed Christmas stocking cap.

Joan Michelson's publications include *Toward the Heliopause*, Poetic Matrix Publishers, CA, 2011, poems, fiction, and essays in British Council anthologies, *New Writing* vols 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', won first prize, Torriano International Competition, 2014. 'Stories,' won first prize, the Bristol Poetry Competition, 2015. 'Eva Borrison' was published in 'Intima' Autumn issue 2015. 'A Slice of Strudel,' 'Intima' Spring issue 2016. Five poems in bilingual form (Italian-English) are forthcoming in 'Cenobio' Switzerland. Former Head of Creative Writing, University of Woverhampton, Joan teaches creative writing to Medical Students at Kings College, University of London. An American, she lives in England.

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