

www.origamipoems.com  
origamipoems@gmail.com

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Cover: *Girl with Mask*  
by Lauri Burke

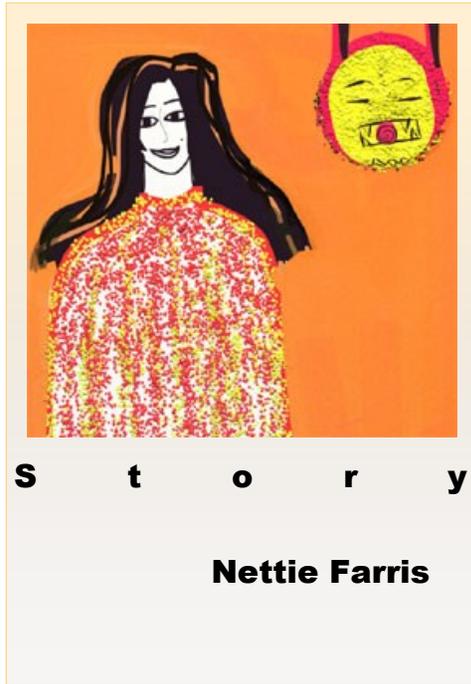
Origami Poetry Project™

### Story

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### Story

She composed a little story to make sense of it all.

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#### Story

When she was drowning, he stood apart and watched. Then, when he was dampened by her splashing, he distanced himself completely.

She thought about calling it *Distance*, but felt she had enough distance in her life already.

### Revision

She revised the story in order to make it more truthful.

#### ~~Story~~

~~When she was drowning, he stood apart and watched. Then, when he was dampened by her splashing, he distanced himself completely.~~

#### Little Birds

He flew away from her, so she flew after him, so he flew away from her.

But the story had transformed so utterly that she wondered whether it was the same story at all.

### Boiling Down the Story

She decided to condense the story to its essential elements.

#### Little Birds

~~He flew away from her, so she flew after him, so he flew away from her.~~

#### Little Birds

He arrived. He departed.

(Her part in the story didn't much interest her.)

### Little Ghost

Though the story now seemed the same, though smaller, the title (with the elimination of flying) no longer fit. What most interested her was not that he had arrived, nor that he had departed, but that he had remained.

#### Little Ghost

He arrived. He departed.

#### Little Birds

### Point of View

#### Little Ghost

He arrived. He departed.

#### Little Birds

Once she changed the title from "Little Birds" to "Little Ghost," the story was no longer about *distance* at all, but (in a small-subtle-sort-of-way) about *intimacy*.

### The End of the Story

She had no doubt about how the story ended.

### The End of the Story

The End

She gave him an *in*, but he didn't take it. She gave him an *out*, and he took it.