



Please recycle to a friend!

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Origami Poetry Project™

**RANDOM BEAUTY**

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To the creator of random beauty:

thank you for dropping by  
 the black crow  
 assessing the world  
 from a blustering mess  
 of red leaves  
 against a storm soaked sky  
 was a reassuring sign

A Lone Crow's Improvisational Theater

When the crow surprised  
 the white eucalyptus  
 the eager tree raised its branches  
 to a sky recently resigned  
 to standard mid-day blue but  
 suddenly deepened to the dark,  
 demanding silhouette  
 before it dropped  
 to hop near the edge of a pool.  
 Its presence transforming concrete  
 to an eggshell hue.  
 Then the sign:  
 WARNING, NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY  
 became an object of beauty, when  
 cast as prop to the black bird perched  
 center stage on the rim  
 of a curling wrought-iron chair.

A Lot

When dirt and stone defined this acre  
 the breeze off the rail ties smelled of  
 tar and mustard grass.  
 Night creatures scurried, moon  
 in their eyes while an owl's call  
 woke us to stars holding course  
 in the sky.  
 Now the night is reeling  
 the acre leveled  
 a condo framed  
 and a black bird lies dead  
 on the roadside.

Acknowledgments

**"The Crow's Calling"**

*A Bird Black As The Sun, California Poets on  
 Crows and Ravens, Green Poet Press, 2011*

**"A Lot"**

*The Independent News, ca. 2000*

Nesting Season

In a nested dent of metal awning  
 swaying outside the library door,  
 a wren is calling its mate.  
 Flawless, she waits  
 of the garden gate  
 before singing  
 her reply.  
 Later, when we met for lunch  
 you smelled of pine.  
 I watched you flirt with the girl  
 behind the counter while she smiled,  
 nervously refolding  
 perfectly folded  
 napkins

**The Crow's Calling**

A bird  
 moved

as if a black hole  
 shaped like a crow  
 was strutting a path  
 across bright playground grass

before rising  
 leisurely  
 at an angle  
 to observe from the perch  
 of a stark eucalyptus

to caw forth a sermon  
 determined  
 inspired as a priest  
 on a foreign mission

ignoring the fact  
 of our language difference.