



**AUG 2020**

# **PRAISE FOR A FRIEND TURNING SEVENTY**

*Meredith Holmes*

You are steady as the clockwork  
of sun and careening stars.

You balance, as butterflies do,  
a genius for beauty  
with the labor of becoming.

You are gentle as the path home  
skirted with Thimbleweed and Angelica.

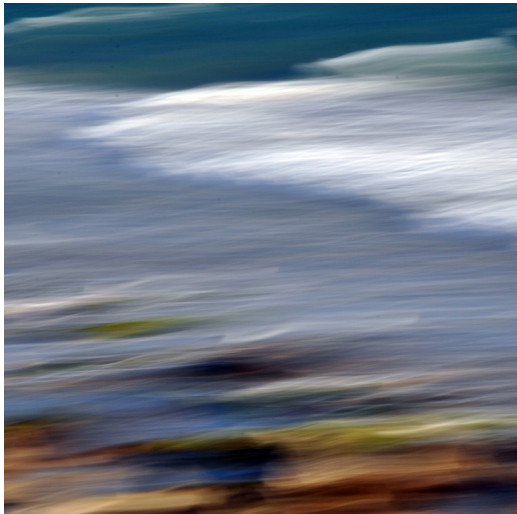
You are wise in friendship, as swallows are,  
seeking their own kind at dusk.

*Art: "In a Whisper" by Kathy Harmon-Luber*

**Meredith Holmes** is a native of New Jersey and has lived in Cleveland Heights, Ohio for many years. In 2005, she was chosen to serve as that city's first poet laureate. Her poems have appeared in several anthologies and a handful of journals. Meredith's poetry collections, "Shubad's Crown" and "Familiar at First, Then Strange," were both published by Pond Road Press. She is a freelance writer, covering women in science, engineering, and politics.

**Kathy Harmon-Luber** is an award-winning fine art photographer, whose work has been exhibited at prestigious galleries and museums nationwide. She was named "Artist of the Year, 2012" by Art Alliance of Idyllwild, CA (one of the "best small art towns in America"). Her photographs have been published in Life Images Magazine, Best of Photography Magazine, New Mexico Photographer Magazine, Inland Empire Magazine, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post. She's also an award-winning poet (7th Annual Ross Andrews Nature Poetry Contest, April 2020).

Visit [www.KathyHarmonLuber.com](http://www.KathyHarmonLuber.com) and [www.FineArtAmerica.com](http://www.FineArtAmerica.com).



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# **BIG GAME**

*Tara Deal*

At a grocery store in a gray town on a fjord, the most important items are right up front: fishing tackle and knitting needles.

No one needs to ask for anything.

No one needs to explain himself.

Unless you are a woman, recently arrived, looking for a knife, something bigger than what you'd use for city life. The woman says she doesn't know what, but she needs something. The clerk offers her something else. It looks like a lantern. To cut through the fog. The woman takes it. But she still needs a knife. To cut through the flesh.

*Art: "Impending Peace" by Kathy Harmon-Luber*

**Tara Deal** is the author of two award-winning novellas, *That Night Alive* (Miami University Press) and *Palms Are Not Trees After All* (Texas Review Press). She lives in New York City. [www.taradeal.com](http://www.taradeal.com) / [www.instagram.com/taradeal/](https://www.instagram.com/taradeal/)

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