

Insider Poems: A Quarantine Mini-Collection

By Janet Colson

*Poetry Editor Hezekiah writes: Some free associations are priceless. Here is a sweet short stack from an abstract thinker...Don't miss **NAMING THE DAYS...** (Spacing is poet's own.)*

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I Was Thinking

If we took down the mirror
Inside our room
We might be able to fit more stuff. A desk.
It's the only mirror I can see myself in
It's the one I look in
We're not taking it down

What It Isn't

Wondering if I need to put on pants for the Zoom meeting.
Got the day wrong. Didn't find out until the next one.
The children are swearing.
Germs are spreading through our eyes.
I only go outside with dogs.
It's none of these things.

Worrying about the soup

that's been sitting in the refrigerator
I don't want to toss it because
that's wasteful
No one is going to eat it but I leave it there

It's the color of blood with potatoes and carrots

I'm worried

Special Delivery

People will order bags on Amazon
When the people who collect the bodies
are too busy, or too scared, or sick
When the trash collection stops
Because the workers have their own trash
People will order bags on Amazon
And who will pick up the bodies?

(I ask my daughter this because I can't help it. You're too much, she says.)

NAMING THE DAYS

The day that didn't feel like a day:

Nonday

And continued into the next day:

Sameday:

And then the day that didn't happen:

Unday

It was a two day week.

THE POET SPEAKS: *This mini-poetry collection was inspired by a call for writers to reflect on the moment, which for me is as much about the day-to-day as it is about a global pandemic. In the poems, I experience the coronavirus as another character in the room, insinuating itself into conversations about furniture and soup. Throughout the journey, I hang onto my anxiety as a familiar companion in the face of the unknown.*

Read the poems out loud. They're better that way.

My poetic influences as of late are Dennis Hinrichsen and CA Conrad. I also like Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, and Dr. Seuss. And Henry Rollins.

AUTHOR'S BIO: Janet Colson is a playwright/director/pole dancer in Lansing, Michigan. Her hybrid piece, *Storycatcher*, is pending publication in the upcoming issue of *The Champagne Room*. She is a collaborator for Ixion Wheel's *rUST*, a theatre piece that has been postponed due to coronavirus. Janet has just completed *ZA-92*, a short play about putting on a show during a zombie apocalypse. She is currently working on a play about coming out in quarantine. *Coming Down* was performed in the Take Ten play festival at Goddard College where Janet received her MFA in creative writing. Her play **Coming Down** appears in this issue.