

My *Date* with a

...*Poet*... *Woman* (!)

By *JESS ... Poet* ☺☺

☺☺ ((she is possessed)....(she is possessed.....!!! !!!

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes... If Dr. Seuss was incarnated as a woman, composing adult verse, he would have been assured to be writing under the Geisel of Deb VictoroffShe is rhythmically rhyming and racy, straddling X-rated, who's being bated? modestly jaded--but mostly hilarious, outrageously uproarious. It's just missing the uncensored illustrations and deliciously illicit sketchy etchings--to straighten out the kinks. 'Oh, the Places you'll go!' Let's get started: "T'was a date that I wanted to happen and did, / With a man whose attentions for which I did bid"... "The night was to end horizontal I planned: / on his couch or in somebody's bed we would land." I never had a date like this...how do you meet these people? "Because that's the best way to approach the first date: / With a hunger and wonder and lust that can't wait." Next the move, "So for hours (just two), we sat close in the dark, / Sharing popcorn and bloodlust and fire and spark," I'll leave the rest to you, the handwringing of hands scene is hysterically funny. It makes for excellent bedtime reading, if you feel like doing something other than sleep." 'The Curse of the Restroom Hand-Drye' reads like ♪...fsssss steam heat ♪-- Solicitously side-split-tingling...*

(Misspells may or may not be deliberate. I didn't correct them—it's HOTS in action! Poem is published on its own page to maintain poet's spacing. Please scroll down.) HS

My Date With a Possessed Woman

Italian. Latin, tongues

This wasn't flirtation?

And her advances...

I took for sadism

But the telling signs..

the otherworldly acrobatics,

the rusty baritone laugh..

And it elucidated that singular fact,

This was no fetish.

THE POET SPEAKS: *My inspiration for the poem came in somewhat of a flash. I thought to myself, wouldn't it be funny if the movie The Exorcist was a parody? And I think I do recall one of the films from the Scary Movie franchise overdoing scenes from The Exorcist and I laughed pretty hard.*

Then I thought, wouldn't it be interesting to combine the Exorcism with a clueless date who mistook every sign of demonic possession as an advance? (speaking in different languages to impress him, violence as a fetish, etc.) I think this came from my own comical difficulty in my dating life when I misinterpreted certain things and the connection didn't really go any further.

I think subconsciously I try to write like Billy Collins. I did a project on him for a poetry class in college and his writing really made an impression. I think he is one of the few poets that can deliver wit and charm so easily.

Poetry is important because life is just too ordinary without it. Poetry is a medium where we can chronicle all the ups and downs we experience, a place where we can make sense of it all. Life is just too dynamic not to be turned into art.

AUTHOR BIO: My name is Jess Michael Paauwe and I am so glad to have that name in a lit mag for the second time this year, the first time being in *Little Somethings Press*. I am excited to have my poem *My Date With A Possessed Woman* published because it is one of the very few poems I have written to use wit and humor. To know I have pulled it off is rewarding. My re-connection with writing started a few Christmases ago when my mom suggested I try to write more. I have had about 30 rejections and the process became frustrating. Getting published a few years prior in the college writing club seemed so easy in comparison. Well, momma's always right and 30 submissions later my writing bears fruit (or more fruit depending on how you look at it). My mother has also taught me that finding a publisher is as difficult and important as writing. I am glad to have found *Fleas on The Dog* because it encourages writing that is not quite ordinary. I believe this does the poetry world a favor and I am glad to be a part of it.