



OUR CIRCUMCISION + 1

BY

Bill Simmons

WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...*

Bill Simmons gets to the point, if not the tip, in "Our Circumcision," he observes his newborn son "two plate glass windows away" having the procedure performed...it does give one pause. "I watch my son, his tiny lips rippling." "Now we are identifying; / Oh, I'll never do this again." "Number One" follows and is a welcome diversion to his previous work, "The Bermuda triangle / Was going wild." (Spacing is poet's own.)

"Our Circumcision"

Leaning forward, right hand over crotch,
Eyes watering, two plate glass windows away
I watch my son, his tiny lips rippling
Back and forth in pain, screaming,
Only heard by him and the Doctor,
A small, dark-haired nonpracticing
Jewish lady, leaning over him
Carefully removing his foreskin.

*"Don't worry," she told me; "He'll never
Remember this; it's hygienic; this way
He'll be able to identify with the father."*

Now I remember what I forgot
40 years ago, my hand rubbing my jeans;
Now we are identifying;
Oh, I'll never do this again.

“Number One”

Dark blue

Long brunette

She drove me crazy

Eyes and hair

5 8 lengthy

What did I care

The Bermuda triangle

Was going wild.

THE POET SPEAKS:

On "Our Circumcision," this is a true story/poem. The Doctor asked me if I was going to have my son circumcised. This decision was new to me; I had two daughters before this. I said yes, and she reassured me he'd never remember this and would identify with me. So, when I came in the next morning, the procedure was taking place; then I identified with my own circumcision.

On "Number One," this is a high school girlfriend, whom I have mentioned in other poems. She is beautiful, a head turner in love with me. I got lost in her, face to toe.

Influences: Blake, Keats, Dylan Thomas, Li Po, Po Chu I, Emerson, Thoreau, Peter Everwine, C. G, Hanzlicek, Philp Levine, Hank Williams Senior, Lennon Mc Cartney, and the list on goes on and on.

AUTHOR BIO: Bill Simmons, His works have appeared in Fleas On the Dog, Jesuit Review, Miramar, California Quarterly, Evening Street Review, Abandoned Mine and others. He has recently moved back to Fresno after living in Iowa for twenty years.