

THE POETIC BOND™ NEWSLETTER – Issue 3

Got something to say, and it's all about poetry, why write an article and not send it in (email poetry@trevormaynard.com). You can download Issue 1 & 2 from <http://www.thepoeticbond.com>

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1. Call for Submissions, THE POETIC BOND III, 2 April 2014, closing 30 June 2014

There are a few deadlines for some well-known poetry competitions coming up, but there's still plenty of time to submit to THE POETIC BOND III. Of course, the advantage with The Poetic Bond is that your poems do not simply disappear into the ether and you find out what happened to them several months later, usually, only if you enclose send an s.a.e. – no, The Poetic Bond is set up differently; within two weeks of the submission window closing, you will hear if you have been short-listed. Also, two readers' reports on your work will be prepared and if you request, this feedback will be sent to you. Everyone who submits work, whether selected for inclusion or not, will be entitled to a discount on the finished anthology when it is published in September 2014. The Poetic Bond is a communal project for the global poetry community.

Want to know more about the poets involved in The Poetic Bonds I, II & III then visit “Meet the Poets” at www.thepoeticbond.com.

Selection for the anthology is based on emergent themes evident within the pool of work submitted, the idea being that the work in the anthology reflects the contemporary zeitgeist of work produced in the new media, professional and social networking community. All poems remain copyright of the author, this is your work, not ours; all we ask is that you allow us to promote your work as part of the anthology. There is no restriction on theme, subject or form, and there is no line count! The submission fee of £7/\$12 (for up to three poems), and further details of all guidelines, including the copyright statement are available at www.thepoeticbond.com

2. Spotlight – Belinda DuPret

Belinda lives by the sea, near Brighton, England, and wrote her first ‘real’ poem when she was 6, reflecting life in the small town in which she lived in. It begins with the stirring words “The lifeboat’s coming in, coming in again” quickly moving to the foreboding “but it hasn’t got the men from the South Goodwin Lightship...” She feels some may have regarded her as precocious. She was published in THE POETIC BOND II in 2012 with “Fruitful”, and in THE POETIC BOND III (2013) “The Scent of Honey”.

Belinda, what inspires you to write?

Life is a constant bombardment of “things” to be written about. Whole sentences pop into my head and demand attention; something seen, heard or smelt; memories, people, events.... the list is endless. Writing has always been a compulsion, and I earned my living using my writing skills for 30 years. To avoid the frustration of losing “must write it” ideas, I keep notebooks and pens in my car, my handbag, my kitchen, my bedroom, I write things down as emails and send them to myself. If I want to say a certain scent takes me back to childhood, wrapped in the love, warmth and safety of my mother – a poem is the way. Prose somehow doesn’t do it. In my eyes, poetry is the purest form of expression. I love words, rhythms, wordplay and playing with ideas. Plus, although it sounds trite, something in me demands to write poetry. That’s it.

Tell us a bit about your featured poem and how it came about

I was having lunch with a group of women I went to school with. We’re all in our sixties now, and one was widowed a few years ago. Someone asked if she had a new man in her life and she shrugged and said “No, what man wants an old woman in her sixties, with fat ankles, droopy boobs and orange peel stomach and thighs...” I thought this was such a sad thing to say and feel, but I loved the way she’d used fruit to describe cellulite. I object to the belief that only the young are beautiful and believe strongly that women mature, rather than age. In my view it isn’t aging per se, but a ripening process gifted by the years. That phrase “orange peel stomach and thighs” was my springboard, but not the first line. It took me to woman as fruit, or many fruits - soft, still lovely and totally delicious as well as totally desirable. So Fruitful was written. An older woman portrayed as a seductive, delicious and gently scented body of irresistible fruits.

What plans do you have for the future?

I’ve started to enter the occasional poetry competition – my first entry was last year’s Bridport and I was thrilled and awed to be shortlisted. “Me? Me? You really mean me? You Like my poetry? Really?” was my reaction. And I’m still thrilled, 6 months later. So entering more competitions is certainly in my plans, plus making submissions to anthologies and magazines. I’ve done this very rarely, usually waiting to be asked. I’m not prolific because I usually think nothing is good enough, and keep crafting until a poem has fully developed with a “je ne sais quoi” that will hopefully make it special. So I’m more of a poem a month person, rather than one a day. Well, I do write one a day, but don’t consider them complete. They are diamonds in the rough, waiting to be found.

Overall, my plans include living every day as fully as I can; finding the fun and humour in life and writing poetry as long as the thoughts come into my head and my fingers can batter at my poor old keyboard.

Fruitful

I’m rounded like peach, shaped like pear
Soft-curved like melon where once I was flat.
My persimmon breasts sit softly with weight and gravitas,
While orange-like dimples on bottom and thighs
And softness on peach-face complete my ripeness.

I offer the feast of older woman
Bounteous with age-old, fruitful soft comfort.
No slender tense buttocks gymnasium toned
But soft, enveloping, fulsome, maturity
To wrap you with warmth.

I'm age-fruited woman
Scented and deep.
No longer fecund but offering full fruitful pleasure.
Vintage Rioja, matured to perfection.....
Some say my taste is addictive.

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Issue 4 will feature Bonnie Roberts and her poem "In Lieu of Flowers" from THE POETIC BOND II

3. Poetry, Review and Discuss is a discussion group on the professional networking site LinkedIn.com. The aim of this group is to look at poetry that is about love, life and the world; poetry that explores issues, that wants to change things, and gets the work out there.

Current discussions

J. Fredrico Martin's discussion "Did Shakespeare edit his works?" <http://lnkd.in/b3pQAUh> has 42 comments and rising, with Kenneth Brandt and Bon Flach wondering where old drafts go and Cathy DeWolf in playful mode. J.Frederico himself suggests plenty of excellent links and impresses, as ever, with his knowledge base.

On a related topic (kind of) "If you like it, cut it" <http://lnkd.in/dZaNxWh> gets personal with spirited contributions from Bruce Fein. There is also "Whose language is it anyway?" <http://lnkd.in/dBA3KJd> up to 39 comments and getting to the neuro-linguist source of language understanding, creativity and poetry!

"Poetry or food?" <http://lnkd.in/dcuwbij> finds some on a diet and some not; see also RH Peat's excellent poem "A Basket of Fruit".

Below are links to some of the poems posted in the group recently which have caught my eye, but search for yourself, everyone has their own opinions...

"Estranged" by Anukriti Singh <http://lnkd.in/dJ5nie8rictions>

"Black is the New Gold" by Bruce Fein <http://lnkd.in/bUAxrbf>

"The Ants Play" by Bonnie J Flach <http://lnkd.in/dWK5eAA>

4. Article – "Will Power" by Rayan Abdul-Baki © 2014

Will Power

I've always wanted a world, where conflict doesn't exist. Where smiles are your gold. Where peace will persist. Where love is your jewellery. Where hugs are in fashion. Where only good memories exist in my diary. After a day full of, satisfaction.

It was the reason I began writing poetry - inspirational poetry. Religious poetry. To eradicate conflict and misery from our mother earth. My book did not demand perfection, but the best virtues our mother earth can cause- we should attempt to maintain a world free of sins and sadness.

I was tired from those heart-breaking miserable news-reports.

Myself, being Lebanese, I was tired of bathing my face in sorrow whilst watching reports of a starvation, or an explosion. I was tired of watching souls part- death empowering its reign of terror.

Mercy. Help. Dignity. But none. Shot down mercilessly. Gone. The clock ticks as souls part. The tears flounder. A broken heart. Bent double. Overpowered by death. Alium Mors Vocat. Plunged in regret.

I was tired of my eyes watering at every suffering child- begging for mercy. Until- I had the will to create the opposite. That will-power could not be dissolved. The opposite had to occur. These innocent children- these innocent souls, crying parents, dissolving families, will shred their final tear - one day, signalling the soulful sun to arise again, for that smile to be drawn- once again. Positive, primitive and prosperous, I disallowed fear from overtaking my soul- and published my poetry- to enhance. To enlighten.

That evil shalt not rise once again- to destroy our world. We will fight it - and the words I write- commence that battle.

Rayan Abdul-Baki ©2014 , reproduced with permission.

5. Classifieds - Publications

The Poetic Bond, ISBN 1466498412

The Poetic Bond II, ISBN 1480209732

The Poetic Bond III, ISBN 1492384194

Keep on Keepin' On (Trevor Maynard) ISBN 1480052493

The Watcher from the Beacon (Peter Alan Soron) ISBN 1480108804

The Light That Shines Inside Us (Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard, Dailogos Books)

ISBN 978-1-935084-38-9

What We Don't Know We Know (Jessie Brown, Finishing Line Press, 2013)

Lucky (Jessie Brown, Anabiosis Press, 2012).

NEXT, ISSUE 4, 7 May 2014

PBN Issue 1 <http://www.thepoeticbond.com/PBN1.pdf> featuring Peter Alan Soron and Trevor Maynard

PBN Issue 2 <http://www.thepoeticbond.com/PBN1.pdf> featuring Graham Bates and Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard

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rayanabdelbaki13@gmail.com