

A Few Words

from Jan Carroll

Autumn 2022 Newsletter

See You Next Time

I say as I wave you off
on your way, your day,
after your morning visit
to my café, yes,
but did you
use the two
packaged, sealed,
tablespoons of butter
you didn't ask for
but I placed
on your plate
anyway
for your day-old,
heated-up
cinnamon roll?

My days stitched together
with daring feats
like this, I need only
a glance as I pass
your booth to confirm
these rash acts I live for
are taken up, taken in,
cherished, savored even if briefly,
but your open book kept hidden
the remnants of what you had or hadn't eaten.
Then you bussed your dishes
disposing of any tell-tale evidence
leaving me only the glimmer
of hope that those tiny gifts,
like unexpected bits
of illumination, not the sun but
more two sparks
temporary yet startling, bright
in the unsettled dust,

kicked up
as if trying to
resuscitate something
fallen dead or maybe
languishing in cursed slumber,
little Frankenstein moments,
flashes enlightening, almost
frightening, meant as
not romantic but fellow
human to human love,
as suggestions of, though
all I had close at hand
was twin dollops of butter
I wished you could spread
(like the light that travels
so far from the beginning
of it all to reach us here
in our Milky pinwheel galaxy)
over the spiral of one
simple bakery pastry
you then ate, your fingers
still sticky even after
you tried to clean them
with a paper napkin
so you licked the residue
remembering a glint of
some distant star exploded,
its debris, its energy, hurtling toward
a pinprick in time long after,
when you realized what I'd done
and somewhere inside
of you some pair of eyes
not yet awakened
opened for the very
first time, and you
shivered.



EVENTS

Reading Plus Music Event: “Underwater Photography: Going Below the Surface, Poems and Songs to Take Us Further In.”
Jan Carroll, poetry; Julie Majkowski, music. Thursday, October 20, 6:30 pm, Brewing Projekt, third floor. FREE.

Collaboration with Chippewa Valley Symphony Orchestra: March 4, 2023. Holst’s *The Planets* will be featured, and two additional choral pieces for which I have written the lyrics. People tell me I am now a librettist. With music by composer Jerry Hui, the two new pieces will be on the Voyager probe and Pluto. See <https://cvsymphony.org/>.

BLOG

Yes, I have begun to actually write blog posts for my website! So far, one tells the tale of carrying a lit candle across a body of water, mimicking a scene in a Tarkovsky film, and one is a love note to beginning creatives, hopefully encouraging them. I hope to write and post one a month, or so. <https://www.jancarrollpoetryetc.net/blog>

NEW BOOK?

I had a new book almost all laid out in Publisher, though I kept taking a few poems out and putting in a few new ones. Then I came up with an idea to do a smaller collection in an unusual format. Stay tuned! Hint: there will be liner notes! Note: the traditional-format book may still happen too at some point.

WHAT I’M READING LATELY

I came across the work of Canadian philosopher and poet Jan Zwicky recently. Here is one that I just love. (Canadian spelling.) <https://griffinpoetryprize.com/poet/jan-zwicky/>

From Practising Bach—Gigue

There is a sound
that is a whole of many parts,
a sorrowless transparency, like luck,
that opens in the centre of a thing.
An eye, a river, fishheads, death,
gold in your pocket, and a half-wit
son: the substance of the world
is light and blindness and the measure
of our wisdom is our love.
Our diligence: ten fingers and
a healthy set of lungs. Practise
ceaselessly: there is
one art: wind
in the open spaces
grieving, laughing
with us, saying
improvise.

QUESTIONS FROM READERS

Do you have a question about poetry in general or about one of my poems in particular? *What does that line mean? Why did you format it like that? What was the inspiration behind this one?* OR, do you have a question about writing poetry? *How can I begin? Do I have to write in rhyme? Why do you do such a crazy thing?*

Send me your question at jan.carroll333@gmail.com and yours may be chosen to be answered in the very next newsletter!



Some readers have asked how they can support my creative work, besides buying a book when they come out.

First of all, the newsletter **remains FREE of charge.**

But, if you would like to donate something to the cause, you can do so via Paypal

(use my email, jan.carroll333@gmail.com)

All donations will be much appreciated and will go to sharing my poetry. THANK YOU!