

JANE EATON HAMILTON

E. Coli, Walkerton

Water scours the pots. Water relieves heat waves
We drank from a sweating pitcher
The body is 90% water
On that hot afternoon her ankles swelled, and then—
When he said, “I love you, Mom”
he was telling her that he once floated happily in her
water

Water falls from the skies
Through hell
Water rises cataclysmically
Don't throw out the baby
Water freezes at 0 degrees C
Water plunges over rocks and down hillsides
You're in hot water now

Water is the biggest international resource
Water is a solvent
Oil is immiscible in water
Water is tasteless and odourless
In Tanzania, children run to Jeeps begging for water
People are dying of thirst
in Haiti, the water is malarial
Women carry water jugs on their heads
You take to mah jongg like a duck to water
Many creatures swim in water
Water is a simple pleasure in a shower
You are wet behind the ears
Noodles boil in water

A child can live three days without water
Salt water is 71% of the globe
Water boils at 68 degrees C
Still water runs deep
Water is a chemical compound with the formula H₂O
Water can be solid or vaporous
Hydrology is its study

He would have told her
blood is thicker than water
if she hadn't been so sick
He would have said I'm sorry
But water was what he cried
when they wheeled her away

Jane Eaton Hamilton is the author, most recently, of “Love Will Burst into a Thousand Shapes.” She has twice won first prize in the CBC Literary Awards (2003/2014).

ILONA MARTONFI

Clamdigger

Knowing the times of low tide
go to the flats when the tide is down
all you need is a rake

once the tides are low
go to the Hyannis Mall bookstore
across from the Holiday Inn
the air-conditioning

in the parking lot, seagulls
etched into sand

buy a book
on abusive relationships,
Getting Free

your youngest, only six
a young boy
three teenage daughters.

All you need is a rake
once the tides are low
build a sandcastle
collect mollusk shells

take coloured photographs
beach, sand dunes, seaweed algae

hide the book in your bag
under blue cotton jeans

read it in the hotel room
when he is at the indoor pool

in the evening go out for dinner
at Villa Vecchione on Main Street
beside the Pauper's Cemetery

pink wild roses
grey-shingled cottages.

Ilona Martonfi is the author of three poetry books, Blue Poppy (2009), Black Grass (2012) and The Snow Kimono (2015). She is the founder/producer of The Yellow Door and Visual Arts Centre Readings, and the co-founder of Lovers and Others. She is also the recipient of the QWF 2010 Community Award.