

Ashes

Look out the kitchen window —
the black patch at the back of the yard,
the leftover char from the fire —
a blackened ellipse,
the brush I burned to please the town
that threatened me when a neighbor.
the one behind, complained.

Before the fire,
my labor — trimming, sawing,
piles of limbs back there.

How long it will take
that I can look out
and not notice the black earth,
not think of my neighbor?

I walk over to seek beauty
in the darkness. Coals and charred bones of wood
scattered in the ashes. Not all black, though.
Blackberry plants sprout at the perimeter.
Small twigs and branches rest on top,
begin the slow raking under
of scold.



Carla Schwartz is a poet, filmmaker, photographer, and blogger. Her poems are widely published. Her poem, *Wormageddon*, appears as a model poem in *The Practicing Poet: Writing Beyond the Basics*, edited by Diane Lockward. Her poem *Gum Surgery* was anthologized in *City of Notions*, A Boston Poetry Anthology. She has published two full books of poetry: *Intimacy with the Wind*, (Finishing Line Press, 2017) and *Mother, One More Thing* (Turning Point, 2014). Her CB99videos YouTube channel has 1,900,000+ views. Learn more at carlapoet.com, or wakewiththesun.blogspot.com or find her on Twitter or instagram @cb99videos.



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