Winter’s Cold Thumb

you were the black
beyond the blue song
of night,
the whisper that stars
hid behind;
the moon's mortal enemy
destroyer of hearts and bringer of nightmares—
i did not know enough to believe
the truth of you
because starving hearts when they are hungry
can feed off scraps and lies
i loved you with all of me,
but you only carved into me with your tongue
of lust;
an insincere compliment to my depths—
your shallows were empty and broken
as the dreams you abandoned
when you forged your identity in the lyric
of your pain,
and i know hurting people can hurt people;
but that's no excuse for how you wounded me
leaving me for dead
with words so cold and cutting they could have
been mistaken for winter's cold thumb.

Linda M. Crate’s poetry, short stories, articles, and reviews have been published in a myriad of magazines both online and in print. She has five published chapbooks A Mermaid Crashing Into Dawn (Fowlpox Press - June 2013), Less Than A Man (The Camel Saloon - January 2014), If Tomorrow Never Comes (Scars Publications, August 2016), My Wings Were Made to Fly (Flutter Press, September 2017), and splintered with terror (Scars Publications, January 2018), and one micro-chapbook Heaven Instead (Origami Poems Project, May 2018). She is also the author of the novel Phoenix Tears (Czykmate Books, June 2018).