

Four Poster Bed

When I was young, first married
we had an antique bed, four posters

Four posters, four angels round
the bed, who watched over my world

Watched over my world of love and whispers
promises and joy for many years

For many years until, moving,
the old bed was left behind

The old bed was left behind
so a new bed heard the breathless panic

The breathless panic
when the ambulance came

When the ambulance came
the angels were no longer on duty

No longer on duty, the departing angels
folded their wings and left

Folded their wings and left
a weeping woman all alone in bed

Maryalicia Post first long-form poem won the Gerard Manley Hopkins International Poetry Competition and was subsequently published as a book, *After You*, by Souvenir Press UK. Her five-line tanka and six-line cherita appear in online and print journals. Other work has been published by Ogham Stone and Poetry Quarterly. She is a travel writer based in Dublin, Ireland.



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