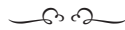


Promethean torture—
But are we worthy
of this wonderful gift
Jules Cohn Botea

A photo of Montreal's Olympic stadium with a haiku that honors the achievement of Nadia Comăneci a Romanian gymnast:

The Olympic Games—
In Montreal a mark ten
Romanian girl
Dumitru Rosu

This book is another example that haiku is alive and well in Romania.



Recycled Virgin by Lori A Minor (2020, Human/Kind Press, Wilmington, DE) 62 pages 6.5" x 6.5". Perfect Bound, Soft Cover \$10 from <https://www.humankindjournal.org/bookschaps.html>

Reviewed by Joshua Gage

Haiku and senryu poets are no strangers to the topic of sex. The earliest masters of both forms readily accepted sex and human sexuality as worthwhile topics for their poems, and much has been written about this topic. In English Language Haiku, numerous books and anthologies of erotic and sex haiku and senryu have been published, and certain Japanese short-form poets are known for their sexual poems. Similarly, topics like abuse and feminism are also readily accepted in modern English Language Haiku. Many poets have written about such topics. However, rarely has a poet taken these two topics—sex and violence—and combined them into a stirring

arch of abuse, guilt, pain and eventual triumph as Lori A Minor has done in her newest collection, *Recycled Virgin*.

Readers are introduced immediately to the themes in the book with the opening poem

a sin
just to say it . . .
s-xual intercourse

These themes—religion, guilt, abuse, sexual exploration—are prevalent throughout the book. Minor's narrative continues with other raw, painful poems that explore and challenge cultural taboos regarding sex:

small town gossip...
the pastor's wife
tells me I'm dirty

Minor also isn't afraid to talk about non-hetero sexuality, and uses this book to celebrate sex and sexuality in all its forms and variations across the human experience:

taste of cherry
I wrap my lips
around her clit

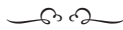
Clearly, there is an honesty and a fearlessness in the language of these poems that other haiku poets might shy away from. Instead of fearing that these topics aren't poetic or are too raw or raunchy for forms like haiku or senryu, Minor advances fearlessly with her language in ways that are both bold but tender and subtle.

Also, while many authors seek to glorify sex or sexual encounters, Minor isn't afraid to deal with the alternatives. There are poems in this collection about awkward sexual encounters, some of which read as humbling for the speaker:

blood moon
my period under
his foreskin

However, whereas some poets might use these topics in ways to shock or upset the reader, Minor works them into a narrative of sexual growth and ultimate triumph, so that they do not read as shocking, but simply awkward and tender moments with a larger narrative of sexual exploration and survival.

Ultimately, Lori A Minor's *Recycled Virgin* is a very young, very exuberant, very bold book. She approaches the topic of sex from the perspective of a young woman in an honest and modern way. While some authors would approach the topic with caution or veiled euphemisms, Minor fully embraces the topic of human sexual relationships in all its glory. Her poems are frank and unflinching, but also gentle and sensual when necessary. If *Recycled Virgin* is any indication, Lori A Minor is a poet to keep one's eye on. This book certainly should be on everyone's shelves.



All the Windows Lit by Rich Youmans, (2017 Snapshot Press, Ormskirk, Great Britain) http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/ebooks/All_the_Windows_Lit.pdf

Reviewed by Taofeek Ayeyemi (Aswagaawy)

All the Windows Lit is a medley of masterpieces that cling to the reader moments after reading them. A nostalgic haibun collection with narratives of intense family relationship and love affairs – right from his parents to his own, we are welcomed with “On Finding a Photo of My Mother and Father’s First Date,” wherein the poet shows how his parent sowed their seed of love, basking in the aura of affection unknowing what the future holds amidst better and worse experience:

“They stare so intently—can they see it all? The dates, the