

## Love's Wine

By Shannon Laws

Hummingbird heart  
pushes out toxins  
of red wine and cabbage  
Cockroach mind  
scurries in search of crumbs  
and dried yellow cheese  
Desperate parts of me  
want to love all you offer  
my stomach not use  
to pure nectar rejects it  
Forgive those parts of me  
that lean against you  
as a tree planted too  
close to the wall

## River Ink

By Shannon Laws

Went to the river looking for a poem  
I found my familiar trail  
Winding woods that hug the bank  
Whatcom Creek in August  
Bushes high and  
Full of berries,  
Birds and spiders webs.

Grass sways underwater  
Moving in sync with the river  
Is this what peace looks like,  
Melted into movement?

Tree branch dips over the drink  
Desiring more of plenty  
Is water from the root not good enough?  
Do you cool your leaves in the noon sun?

Down by the edge there's a place to sit  
Two dead trees have slumped across  
I dip a stick into the stream  
Like pen into ink  
To write my name on the sun bleached wood.

The sun grabs my letters  
Throws them in the air  
Birds ride the upward current  
Did I just disappear?

## Housekeeper

By Shannon Laws

People of all types  
Come and go to my hotel  
The same room will house  
Many different lives

Some stay for less than eight hours  
Others for days  
Each time I reset the room  
Removing the evidence of a life

I know them now when they walk in  
Not by name or by hometown  
I know them by their stains  
The marks left behind, that I clean

For you I'll find wine rings  
Dried on the tables  
Some spills on the sheets  
Bottles in the garbage

For you I'll find diapers  
Filling both waste baskets  
Spit-up on the bed cover  
A travel crib I'll have to take down

For you I'll find almost nothing  
You made your bed before leaving  
Your shower was too quick to dirty  
Changing the sheets I'll find a sock

I clean the room  
The same room  
Over and over  
I clean you away

Washing the tub

# Writing Raw

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Scrubbing off the ring  
Removing the hair  
Wiping down the mirror

Dusting the room  
Making the bed  
Vacuuming it all away  
You are gone

**Shannon Laws bio:** Shannon P. Laws, Bellingham WA, is a 2013 Mayor's Arts Award (Bellingham) and 2015 Community Champion Award (Writer's International Network, Richmond, B.C.) recipient. Her poetry appeared in *Clover-A Literary Rag*, *Five Willows Literary Review*, *From Bellingham With Love*, and *Noisy Water: Poetry from Whatcom County, Washington*. She has performed in Western Washington University's "Erotic Poetry Night", the "West Coast Tagore Festival", Writers International Network Canada, Village Books "Literature LIVE" and worked as a contributing poet for the Chuckanut Sandstone Writers Theater and Bellingham Repertory Dance Company "Phrasings" collaboration. Shannon is a co-founding member of [World Peace Poets Bellingham](#), who promote harmony through words for local and international writers at various public readings, including the annual "Read-in! Write-On!" event. In 2015 she coordinated a charity album "[Blue Skies for Bellingham](#)" featuring 17 local bands. All album proceeds go to the Blue Skies for Children's Our Little Wishes Instrument Loaner and Enrichment Programs. These programs provide low income, homeless and foster children ages six to fifteen living in Whatcom and Skagit County funding for music lessons and musical instrument rental to help increase hope and raise self-esteem. Her publications include two poetry books, *Madrona Grove* and *Odd Little Things*. Her next book "*Fallen*" is set to release fall 2016.