

## Forces

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# Untitled

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## **I Knew of Love**

*Kelly Schmidt*

I knew of love once a long  
time ago  
When my heart was  
inexperienced  
And my body didn't know  
My innocence was taken  
from me  
By a hand who locked  
the cage  
Revealing all his lies and faults  
A subject to his rage  
His love is never ending  
So a voice inside me said  
Even as he lied to me  
Wishing I was dead  
My soul cried out in agony  
As if turned to dust  
Weeping in sweet misery  
A prisoner to his lust  
My heart forever darkened  
My body couldn't flee  
As a slave held prisoner  
Never to be free.

## Shadow

*Pasco Rowe*

I walked up to the edge of the riverbank and sat down next to  
my shadow  
Beside the shady sycamore and let my rusty coffee can of juicy  
worms rest.  
The cane pole grandpa taught me to fish with also served as a  
tool of corrective discipline,  
But today I put aside my youthful exuberance and settled my  
straw hat over my eyes to reflect.

I ran over the list of disastrous accomplishments that make great  
stories, but leave painful stings  
As nature nurtured my soul when suddenly my shadow tapped  
me on the shoulder whispering,  
Remember that time we rolled that big black broke bowling ball  
down the bank into the water?  
The following interrogation ensued through two-inch particle-  
board. "Isn't that where you wanted it?"

My shadow don't know much, but he has his ways of getting me  
in on mischievous plans one  
after the other that end up getting me chased to the brink of  
exhaustion with wide whelps  
to encourage my mischievous mayhem to detour towards reform  
with painful stings as  
constant reminders to look up the word "shenanigans."

My runny nose finally corked up and the cool earth anaesthetized  
my backside enough to venture out  
upstream, but the shady sycamore filtered out every urge and  
desire to wander from underneath the  
peace and protection that separated me from mischief and my  
shadow. I usually wait till after dark  
to go home on days like these, and everyone wonders why I  
never catch any fish.

