

Winning Poems in 2021 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

7. California, Third Place

Other Sorrows

*“Stanyan Street and other sorrows”
by Rod McKuen*

Still half asleep, I’m
irked and insulted.
From my semi-coma,
I accuse the newborn day
of waking me without cause.
She smiles, “Guilty as charged.”

My friend, the Sun starts
to concede to morning,
but he is undecided.
It is his prerogative to be
Generous with warmth or
Rescind today’s anointing.

Sun chooses to take cover
in the fog that hides the
Golden Gate and cools the bay.
His preference is clear, he’ll
delay his chores till midday,
make an appearance later.

Over on Stanyan Street,
there are other sorrows.
McKuen’s ghost is pleased.
He hates the sun these days,
prefers to sulk into the shadows—
find a place to stash the pain.

Sue Daly
Sacramento, CA