

Winning Poems in 2022 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

1. Fixed Forms, Second Place

A Lover's Lament: ryuka quintet

i. at the Bottom

her heart is heavy with the weight
of broken trust and betrayal
the windlass with each crank and turn
drops the anchor lower

ii. in the Depths

across the rippling lake at dusk
a gentle breeze bends sweet-grass reeds
as a bamboo flute now pulsates
in rhythm with her heart

iii. on Balance

in shallow water, two cranes stand
each on one leg, neck under wing
within my breast the thought of you
sharing a soft pillow

iv. for Dismal Hours

in time out-worn, her heart worn-out
against the blue-grey of twilight
the light is weak; weak her promise
not to miss him by dawn

v. under an Echo

with a start suddenly I wake
my heart beating fast with rapture
you call my name and I cry out
but there is no reply

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