

Winning Poems in 2022 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

3. Any Subject, Any Style, First Place

**To My Mom:
She Came Out Once**

She came out once
out from behind what you call the podium
but she would tell you is really the lectern
out from behind the pages of notes,
notations, annotations, underlinings, question-marks
out from behind the stack of books
stacks that would reach beyond the ceiling
beyond the giant who lives at the end of the beanstalk
beyond the quietly observing, eyebrows-lifted moon
stacks that would make your head swim
while letters and words do somersaults and splits
and crazy things
and slap you upside the head.
She came out once
out from behind the fear
that she was only worth listening to
if she was quoting some erudite author
or telling you the history of the matriarchy
or Greek gods or animal sacrifices in ancient times
or Shakespeare's life.
She came out once
as just her own human self
and I got to be there
and my heart did cartwheels
and came out to meet her.

Cathy Dana
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