



Scarlet Dragonfly Journal

## Special Issue – Halloween 2023



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deathly creatures emerge  
the air grows heavy  
halloween is here

-- Akeesha Ekanayake, Australia

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cold Halloween night  
smell of burning at my door  
small dragon seeks treats

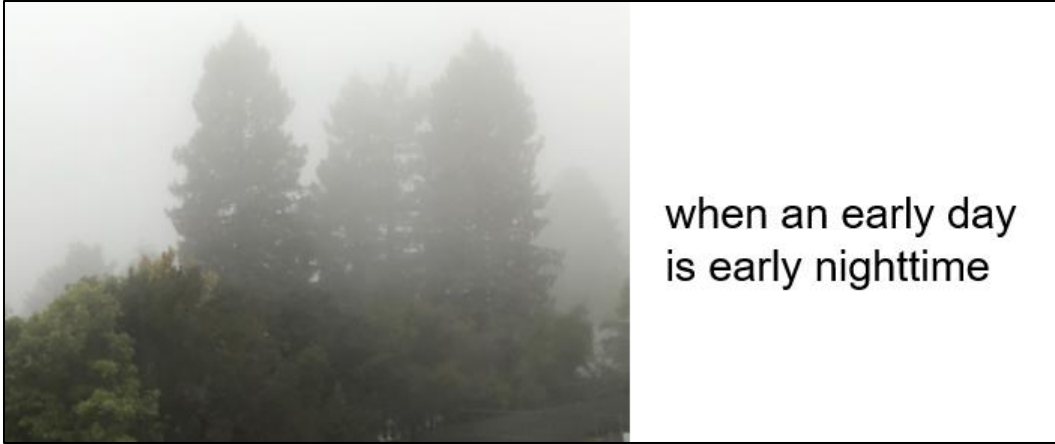
-- Akua Lezli Hope, USA

---

death mask  
he tells me it's not  
on yet

-- Alan Summers, UK

---



-- Alan Bern, USA

---

Departed dance  
by defying death  
an honorable lie

-- ALEX K O, India

---

ghost (imayo)

with her eyes all wet, she said, "I don't want to go."  
resting in the chair, he said, "I don't think I'll know."  
when she hugged him tight, she said, "Please remember me."  
he'd forgot her name, but said, "I'll try, love. We'll see."

-- Alex Penland, UK and USA

---

Halloween party --  
the vampire chooses  
a white wine

-- Alexander Groth, Germany

---

pumpkin pie --  
redeeming Halloween  
after ghoulish smiles

-- Alfred Booth, France

---

### **Love O' Bats**

Bat motifs galore  
On night of frightful delights  
Kid me in heaven

-- Alisa Lindfield-Pratt, Australia

---

blinded by fear --  
creatures of his own darkness  
slink into sight

-- Allison Douglas-Tourner, Canada

---

halloween edition  
the ghosts of  
rejected poems

-- Alvin B. Cruz, Philippines

---

pumpkin . . .  
another lost  
head

-- Ana Drobot, Romania

---



*Angela Giordano*

*above the threshold  
witches and vampires-  
magical night*

*the empty pumpkins lit  
the capture the evil one*

-- Angela Giordano, Italy

---

bats are flying  
witches on their brooms too  
halloween traffic jam

-- Anita Bacha, UK

---

worn pillow cases  
full of sweet dreams  
Halloween

-- Ann Sullivan, USA

---

## Lycanthrope Love

“Even a man who is pure in heart, and says his prayers by night, may become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms, and the moon is full and bright.” —Sir John Talbot

He stayed but briefly in London. Briefer still, his stint by the Black Woods, narrowly escaping the huntsman’s ax and Red’s vengeance. He boarded a brig under a fog-wrapped moon to escape the crowds, retreating to the broader wilds of Eurasia, to skulk out a nesting place to brood and howl, to breed like a wild man under the New Year’s wolf moon.

cold mountain  
caught on hawthorn  
peculiar hairs

-- Anna Cates, USA

---

the flame inside the empty pumpkin trembles --  
All Saints' Night

-- Anna Rimondi, Italy

---

cicada exoskeleton  
yellowjacket crawls in  
a found mask

-- Archie Abaire, USA

---

driving rain ...  
ghouls shape-shifting  
on my windshield

-- Archie Carlos, USA

---

windows bang  
with the howling wind  
witching hour

-- Arvinder Kaur, India

---

which is witch  
Halloween bride conceals  
her broom

-- Ashoka Weerakkody, Sri Lanka

---

Day of the Dead  
the waters' breaking

-- Barbara Anna Gaiardoni, Italy

---

linen closet  
she picks a shroud  
to wear to the party

-- Barrie Levine, USA

---

not a mask  
the scary conclusion  
of the night

-- Bart Van Goethem, Belgium

---

halloween night  
a thin veil  
between two worlds

-- Bernadette O'Reilly, Ireland

---

halloween day . . .  
the war ghost's dear traps him  
with love

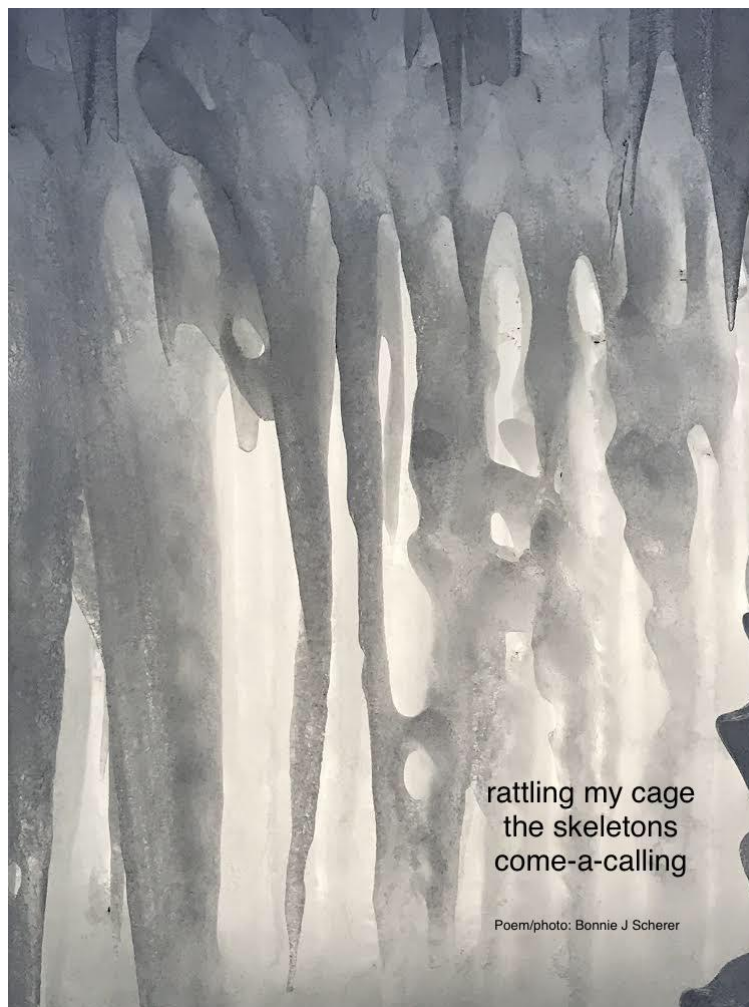
-- Bipasha Majumder (De), India

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Halloween  
trying to make up  
my mind

-- Birk Andersson, Sweden

---



-- Bonnie J Scherer, USA

---

cutting out  
the dark parts of me  
sickle moon

-- C.X. Turner, UK

---

Seagulls shrieking  
on the deserted pier --  
ghost train closed

-- Caroline Ridley-Duff, UK

---

leaves in the doorway  
the long eyes  
of a ghost

-- Chad Lee Robinson, USA

---

this ghostly silence . . .  
face to face with a gang  
of Grim Reapers

-- Chen-ou Liu, Canada

---

Halloween wedding  
she suggests he remove  
the mask

-- Christine Wenk-Harrison, USA

---

blood-red  
the serrated edge  
of the leaf

-- Corey D. Cook, USA

---



The children play  
with a Pumpkin  
in the Halloween night

-- Crishanthie Sumanasekera, Sri Lanka

---

party snacks --  
the popcorn  
such nutty flavor

-- dan smith, USA

---

### **FEET OFF THE GROUND**

the shadow  
of a witch's hooked nose  
creaking door (dm)

her black cat wanders  
into the mysterious night (gc)

pile of leaves  
a fairy maiden opens  
a trap door (dm)

down down down  
caught by his trouser loop  
a hook on the wall (gc)

a raven on a bare branch  
a thousand eyes in the wood (dm)

all the ghosts fly out  
to witness this night's mishap  
wail of a siren (gc)

-- Daniela Misso, Italy (dm) / Gillena Cox, Trinidad (gc)

---



slow dance with what's left of you

-- David C. Kopaska-Merkel, USA

---

toil and trouble  
stare back from  
the cauldron

-- David Josephsohn, USA

---

in autumn  
spirits whisper through dried leaves  
old confessions  
borne on santa ana winds  
buy no rest for weary souls

-- David Lee Hill, USA

---



-- Debbie Strange, Canada

---

paper talismans  
to ward off evil  
somebody laughs

-- Deborah Karl-Brandt, Germany

---

candy wrappers  
line  
the mummy's insides

-- Dennis Andrew S. Aguinaldo, Philippines

---

a spill of absinthe  
green elixir dripping  
Oscar Wilde's grave

-- Diane Funston, USA

---

trick-or-treaters knock  
at old house in darkness  
ghosts cower within

-- DJ Tyrer, UK

---

all hallow's eve . . .  
jackdaws freewheel above  
tombstones

-- Earl Livings, Australia

---

All Hallow's Eve  
a murder of crows  
snatches treats

-- Eavonka Ettinger, USA

---

the trick or treaters ghosted with no candy

-- Elliot Diamond, USA

---

Owl on telephone  
wire outside my window.  
Who calls? Who calls who?

-- Emma Goldman-Sherman, USA

---

at the door  
a little werewolf howls  
-- looking for mom

-- Eta Grubešić, Serbia

---

the snow and dust  
on a forgotten grave  
All Souls' Day

-- Eufemia Griffio, Italy

---



**Before sunset  
A crow lands  
Steel door sounds**

-- Fayad Essa, Egypt

---

Halloween --  
my dark side  
for one night

-- Francoise Maurice, France

---

halloween evening --  
the pockets scented  
with marshmallows

-- Francy Zeta, Italy

---

all hallows' eve  
two little pirates  
in search of booty

-- Gary Hittmeyer, USA

---

trick or treat . . .  
following ants  
under my child's bed

-- Genevieve S. Aguinaldo, Philippines

---

security guard  
behind the Halloween store  
arresting the dead

-- Geoff Pope, USA

---

raccoon on the porch  
-- jack-o-lantern  
gets a face-lift

-- Ger Jonker, Canada

---

harvest moon --  
toothless grins of ancestors  
ghost the neighbourhood

-- Hla Yin Mon, Myanmar

---

Capuchin Catacombs  
losing the others  
on our after dark tour

-- Ingrid Baluchi, North Macedonia

---

stirring the pot  
adding a touch of newt  
a wart on her nose (ss)

she dresses as herself  
for Halloween (jc)

in an angelfish ballgown (kw)

-- Jackie Chou, USA (jc)  
Siggi Saradunn, USA (ss)  
Kathabela Wilson, USA (kw)

---

donning the clown mask,  
i scare my own grandmother:  
her dentures fly out

-- James Essex, Japan

---

when I didn't dress  
up for the costume party  
and won first prize

-- James Penha, Indonesia

---



-- Jan Stretch, Canada

---

Halloween --  
Jupiter glows  
jack-o'-lantern

-- Janet Ruth Heller, USA

---



waiting  
for a candle and a grin  
pumpkins in the field

-- Janet Ruth, USA

---

morning train  
the lifeless shuffle  
of the zombie commute

-- Jay Friedenber, USA

---

On the windowsill,  
Three black cats stare right at me.  
I give them a wink.

-- Jayden, The Netherlands

---

every year --  
I open the candy  
a bit earlier

-- Jennifer Gurney, USA

---

halal sweets:  
ready for our multifaith  
trick or treaters

-- Jenny Shepherd, UK

---

waiting  
for sun to go down  
in this dirt

-- Jerome Berglund, USA

---

Jack o' lantern --  
witches waltz stirring  
spicy pumpkin broth

-- Jharna Sanyal, India

---

jack-o-lantern  
candle blown out --  
nirvana

-- Jimmy Pappas, USA

---

sleepover  
her mother asks me  
to bread the brains

-- JL Huffman, USA

---

Halloween night --  
lit pumpkins mark  
houses offering sweet treats

-- Joan Leotta, USA

---

gathering storms  
battlefield ravens spread  
songs of darkness

-- John Hawkhead, UK

---

Halloween full moon  
werewolf grows  
his party costume

-- John J. Dunphy, USA

---

october dark --  
leading me,  
a stray

-- John Pappas, USA

---

she stares into my soul  
with her empty  
sockets

-- Jon Petruschke, USA

---

Halloween story --  
mum invites a new vampire  
across the threshold

-- Jonathan Aylett, UK

---

trick or treat  
Superman  
sticks out his tongue

-- Joseph P. Wechselberger, USA

---

my kids bring  
a lot of candy tonight  
coming toothache

-- Jovana Dragojlovic, Serbia

---

Halloween spirits rise  
Mingling in the air  
Their screeches echoing

-- Joy Yin, Mexico

---

full moon  
above the cemetery  
ghosts gather

-- Juliet Wilson, UK

---

his fangs consume my  
throat, I bleed into his eyes,  
I am a vampire

-- K.G. Munro, Scotland

---

dressed in black  
little girls pirouette  
pointed toes and hats

-- Karen A VandenBos, USA

---

baby pumpkin hats  
on jack o'lantern balloons  
heads on top of heads

-- Kathy Watts, USA

---

jack-o-lantern's grin  
my daughter's Snickers  
in my bathrobe pocket

-- Kelly Sargent, USA

---

at my front door  
a long line  
of giggling ghouls

-- Kim Klugh, USA

---

moonlit shrine  
the kimono-clad woman  
turns her head  
showing her pale eyeless face  
with sharp black teeth

-- Kimberly Kuchar, USA

---

October  
candle lit gourds  
grimacing

-- Kyle Patrick Smith, USA

---

Jack-O-Lanterns  
in rows  
sentinels

-- Lakshman Bulusu, USA

---



'Helloeen'  
the child wishes half  
of the word in-out

-- Lakshmi Iyer, India

---

halloween  
ghouls feast  
on the cadavers

-- Leela Satyan, Singapore

---

all saints  
yesterday's  
little devils

-- LeRoy Gorman, Canada

---

From tiny tot ghosts  
to creepy clown teenagers . . .  
last trick-or-treating.

-- Liane Sousa, USA

---



**a ghouls party  
night out  
with finger foods**

-- Linda L Ludwig, USA

---

cheshire moon  
dust sprinkled on  
sleeping vagabond's legs  
blisters birthing  
itchy millipede feet

-- Lorelyn De la Cruz Arevalo, Philippines

---

waiting for you  
I google the word  
ghosting

-- Lori Kiefer, UK

---

All Hallow's Eve  
the hungry ghosts  
on my doorstep

-- Lorraine A Padden, USA

---

Frost fractures upon  
this dying land, leaves fragile --  
centuries-old bones

-- Lorraine Caputo, Latin America

---

Dia de los Muertos  
glowing eyes  
in la calavera

-- Lynn Edge, USA

---

trick or treats  
doom haggles at the door  
souls slip on by

-- Margaret Kiernan, Ireland

---

Naughty Dracula  
Sucking the blood of mortals  
Insatiable thirst

-- Maria Quernel, France

---



out of his short  
skull and crossbones underwear --  
a married man

-- Marie Derley, Belgium

---

grin fest  
father, son, grandson  
and pumpkins

-- Marilyn Humbert, Australia

---

bats circling  
around the cemetery  
trick-or-treat teens

-- Marilyn Ward, UK

---

the witch  
and her pumpkin  
same evil grin

-- Marjorie Bruhmuller, Canada

---

trick or treat!  
disappointed kids  
when I say treat

-- Mark Brimble, Spain

---

scissoring eye holes  
in a bleached white sheet  
on Halloween's eve --  
this wandering ghost  
has a wondering soul

-- Mark Gilbert, UK

---

she can't decide who to be first Halloween

-- Matthew Defibaugh, USA

---

ants up and down  
the mauve skate park --  
corpse's head

-- Maurizio Brancaleoni, Italy

---

funeral symphony --  
from the mouth of the pumpkin  
a black smoke

-- Mauro Battini, Italy

---

dressed in brown caps  
toadstools huddle  
in the grass

-- MelDennison, UK

---

Halloween  
the cadavers of candy bars  
litter the porch

-- Michael Flanagan, USA

---

the ghost moans at me  
mad that I just lie in bed  
been dead for weeks now

-- Miguel O. Mitchell, USA

---

scared  
the ghostly darkness  
of white walls

-- Mike Gallagher, Ireland

---

Halloween night  
completing the mood  
an owl's cry

-- Mirela Brailean, Romania

---

Halloween decor --  
grandpa's dentures  
dipped in blood

-- Mona Bedi, India

---

on yodeling yew  
the sky snarls a murky moon --  
All Hallows' Eve's din

-- Monica Kakkar, India and USA

---

All Hallow's Eve  
my grandson dresses up  
as a chemist

-- Nancy Brady, USA

---

a jack-o-lantern  
lights the doorway  
the cat slinks away

-- Neena Singh, India

---

limbs rot  
in the mud  
of the trail

-- Nicholas Alexander Hayes, USA

---

scarecrows  
featuring in the garden --  
Halloween fashion

-- Nicole Pottier, France

---

Halloween night --  
the dark side of me  
stays in bed

-- Nicoletta Ignatti, Italy

---

haunted streets  
the stray's bowl brims  
with fear

-- Nitu Yumnam, India

---

nightmare  
maybe at the Halloween party  
I ate too much

-- Oscar Luparia, Italy

---

pumpkin hawker  
outsells  
pre-Halloween day

-- Padmasiri Jayathilaka, Sri Lanka

---

halloween dawn  
behind his eyes  
a red mist

-- Patricia Hawkhead, UK

---

always a surprise  
as I sweep fall leaves off the path  
that urge that comes  
to take my broom  
and fly

-- Peggy Hale Bilbro, USA

---

dressed like Medusa  
she slithers one door to next  
recognized by all

-- Peggy T Rush, USA

---

sweets lie ready  
no grisly skeletons  
rattle at the door

-- Pitt Buerken, Germany

---

moans  
drift through my window  
the stake didn't work!

-- Pris Campbell, USA

---

warding off  
the sparks in guise  
October fest

-- Purbaraga, Bharat (India)

---

a night wolf  
chomps the leftovers --  
teeth in moon

-- R K Singh, India

---

goosebumps on my arms  
someone steps over my grave  
shovel in their hand

-- R.I. Károly, Germany

---

lights off  
a black cat  
topples a bin

-- Radhika De Silva, Sri Lanka

---

geese on the wing  
camouflage  
for witches

-- Ralph Culver, USA

---

eyepatch raised  
the Halloween candy  
swap meet

-- Randy Brooks, USA

---

lanterns lit --  
how many empty pumpkins  
at the window

-- Ravaglia Giuliana, Italy

---

deepening nightfall  
no more sweets left  
for my Halloween ghosts

-- Rebecca Drouilhet, USA

---

evening wind --  
spider web  
stretches

-- Refika Dedić, Bosnia and Herzegovina

---

stranger at the door  
selling cemetery plots  
Halloween

-- Richard Bailly, USA

---

Halloween . . .  
the slam of a door  
feel of a hand  
the creeping creature  
with jaws open wide\*

\*Tribute to MJ "Thriller"

-- Richard L Matta, USA

---



windy night  
trees are trembling  
while leaves are dropping dead

-- Rita Melissano, USA

---

Quasimodo's Bell . . .  
the hunched back walk of  
her sciatic nerve

-- Robert Kingston, UK

---

October  
searching the house  
for my wand

-- Roberta Beach Jacobson, USA

---

corn maze  
only one way out  
of their childhood

-- Ron Scully, USA

---

trick or treat . . .  
a skeleton  
opens the door

-- Rosa Maria Di Salvatore, Italy

---



-- Rupa Anand, India

---

Halloween  
my whole neighborhood  
dark as the grave

-- Ruth Holzer, USA

---

halloween night --  
my costume reflects  
who I wish to be

-- Sally Quon, Canada

---

Halloween . . .  
not wearing the mask  
of fear

-- Samo Kreutz, Slovenia

---

hunter moon  
a black cat with an eye  
between seasons

-- Sandra St-Laurent, Canada

---

Mischief night:  
we believed that we were ghosts  
in our own lives

-- Sarah Davies, UK

---

Jack O'Lantern  
Halloween lampoon today  
tomorrow's soup

-- Scarlet Maxy, The Netherlands

---

out of storage  
ghosts and goblins  
haunt the hood

-- Scott Wiggerman, USA

---

the secrets that you keep someone in the dark

-- Shane Coppage, USA

---

halloween ball  
Frankenstein asks  
for my arm

-- Sharon Ferrante, USA

---

halloween party  
everybody hiding behind  
a new mask

-- Sharon Martina, USA

---

the Halloween rush  
I let all my Tarot cards  
take a holiday

-- Shelli Jankowski-Smith, USA

---

All Hallows' Eve  
the wheel of fortune  
in reverse

-- Shloka Shankar, India

---

heavy foot steps  
the rattle of chains  
from the hallway (ss)  
wearing  
all mom's jewelry (kw)

-- Sigrid Saradunn USA / Kathabela Wilson USA

---

Halloween  
will my ghosts don  
people costumes?

-- Skaidrite Stelzer, USA

---

A horror story  
Decorated yards  
With a sweet ending

-- Smruthi Patel, India

---

halloween night  
beggar's bowl resounds  
at street door

-- Somayajulu Musunuri, India

---

after halloween party  
the skeleton  
returns to the grave



-- Sreenath, India

---

silhouettes  
against the full moon  
devour flesh

-- Stephanie Zepherelli, USA

---

all hallows eve  
shades of separated friends  
float at the foot of my bed

-- Steve Van Allen, USA

---

Baby girl gets scared of  
her own sibling  
Halloween parade

-- Subhashini Jayatilake, Australia

---

on her pillowcase --  
puddles of vampire blood  
shrieks of joy

-- Suzanne Martikas, USA

---

she reached out to him  
with white hands  
her lips ruby red  
this night a mortal will fall  
hearing songs, serene and sweet

-- Tim Happel, USA

---

jack-o'-lantern --  
after all thrown  
to pigs

-- Tomislav Maretic, Croatia

---

howl of a wolf . . .  
how black blood looks  
in moonlight

-- Tony Williams, Scotland

---

carved pumpkin patch  
on neighbor's front lawn  
a rattling skeleton

-- Tuyet Van Do, Australia

---

All hallows eve  
witches walk among children  
unrecognized

-- Vaishnavi Pusapati, India

---

night flight  
a vampire takes  
to the sky

-- Valentina Ranaldi-Adams, USA

---



-- Zdenka Mlinar, Croatia





HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN