

**Poems**

**by**

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### **Plain Potato Chip**

The pleasure of a plain potato chip  
After weeks of sensory deprivation  
The transparent thinness  
Ephemeral crunch  
The taste of hot oil and fried potato  
The boldness of salt

### **Solitary**

Solitary ain't so bad  
At least  
there is privacy

### **Transposed**

A fast walk across concrete  
My greedy strides consume  
ground like eager travel  
with places to go  
Winter air fills my nose  
dry, savory, smokiness  
sweet wood and cold stone  
I hurl myself forward  
Back to my first day in Tokyo  
Flying across unknown streets  
with all the wonder and excitement  
And pleasure of being in the world

## **Tapping**

A child is tapping on my glass  
Angrily, insistently  
Shake my fishbowl  
Stand up! Do what I say!

still burns brightly today  
A world of our Sun  
and our rainy days

## **The New Zoo**

Inside my cage I roar and I rage  
The animals hoot and bellow  
Their yells and screams  
Shake the walls and seams

We can't be kept long  
we reach out our hands  
And rejoin them soon  
to return to the people  
And other cats  
who await the end of our stay

## **Tako**

Octopus escaping onto the cooking street  
Walking by our eyes happen to meet  
Tentacles freeze climbing o'er the side

## **My love**

My lover  
And my best friend  
I long to see  
the fire in your eyes again

## **Prairie**

Warm beer on the prairie  
Seas of waving grass  
A vast ocean of blue sky  
A Mongol horselord riding  
Across an endless world

## **all at once**

Time is a circle  
Not a straight line  
Our warmest embrace  
Happening yesterday  
Still happening today  
Will go on tomorrow

Dark, shapelessness resolving into green  
the grasping hand of clouds has gone  
Is it hidden or dissipated?

### The New World

Rivers toll towards the Great Middle Sea  
Valleys engineered by AI Dreams  
Boomtown ports of the New Humanity

### Faerie Cat

Faerie Cat  
upon my lap  
How fae loves to play  
massages and naps  
Fae love to relax  
we whittle the time away

Cooking, experiments, and steeping our tea  
we eat feasts and treats  
Kimchis and hotpots  
pasta, chocolate, and soup  
We could run a vegan buffet.

Our kisses and hugs  
Fae love affection and joy  
history, mystery, myths, stories, and maps  
We talk together all day

Now you have gone  
to an iron cage  
Taken, maeve 'the fae'  
magik sealed and hidden away

The realm of our life

### Prison Art

There's a Charizard in Segregation Cell 210  
It's so big, across the wall and ceiling  
10 feet off the ground  
I don't even know  
How it was drawn up there

Flaming breath and iconic tail  
Claws, wings, and fangs  
It's the best Charizard I've ever seen

It fills me with wonder  
I'm lucky to be **here**  
Like my first Artists' Alley

or step onto Akiba's streets  
Surrounded by filth and prisoners' screams  
It's a peaceful and Holy scene

## **Merry Christmas**

On my way to court  
I saw a homeless sweep  
Merry Christmas

## **And a Happy New Year**

On my way from prison to court  
I passed a homeless sweep  
polo shirts, always standing around  
poor workers in reflective vests  
picking up trash, belongings, clothes,  
haul away tents, meds, lives  
Neighbors shuffle away  
they carry on, shelter gone  
2 days before Christmas  
And a Happy New Year

## **New Year**

I stay up on New Years  
To watch the first sunrise  
Not always, but often  
Sometimes, I'll climb a roof  
Lay on slanted black shingles  
It doesn't matter much  
But it's a symbolic action  
One I choose  
To orient myself

## **First Sunrise**

The barest hint of scarlet-pink tints the first sky  
Long thin clouds streak pink like ruled lines  
the sun's rise brings on a deep purple hue  
till the windows on the opposite prison wall  
reflect peach colored sky above dark slopes  
like gentle volcanoes; the sunrise above Maui  
the morning finally brings blue and violet into the world  
it brings the tan of Texas buildings and Texas dirt  
and silvery rolls of shining barbed wire  
the brake lights of the security car slowly roll by  
wide bands stretch out light across the sky  
and move like fingers grasping the world  
windows change from tropics to sterile whites  
revealing old rusted iron bars  
all the colors now meet  
a layered quilt, pink, red, black, purple, orange, blue, and white  
Finally, I see trees in the distance