

**the river's edge**

My poems have appeared in the British Journals, Delta, Quill and  
Flare and the American journal, Frogpond, the Japanese journal,  
Tribune and the Montreal Daily Star. Although the editors of  
these journals and newspapers I would like to thank the editors of the  
anthology and poets, listed at the back of this collection for including  
my work.

## **the river's edge**

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Annie Bachini



The Green Siskin Press, Fresno, California

My poems have appeared in the British journals, *Blithe Spirit* and *Presence*; the American journal, *Frogpond*; the Japanese journal, *Troubadour* and the *Mainichi Daily News*. Alongside the editors of these journals and newspapers I would like to thank the editors of the anthologies and books listed at the back of this collection for including my work.

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The Bare Bones Press, Frome, Somerset

My poems have appeared in the British Journal, 1979-1981 and  
Presented the American Journal, 1982-1983. The American Journal  
The British and the American Journal have been the editors of  
these journals and magazines. I would like to thank the editors of the  
magazines and books listed at the back of this collection for helping  
my work.

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the river's edge

the river's edge

after the spring clean  
wishing I'd played the music box  
one last time

unwell  
waking in the early evening  
.....darkness

news item  
knowing exactly what my mother's  
response would have been



Sainsbury's in spring  
a young couple push the trolley  
holding hands



Stainsbury's in spring  
a young couple push the trolley  
holding hands

shopping parade  
people step over  
the broken cassette

the broken cassette  
people step over  
shopping parade

sale  
'fill a bag for £1'  
suddenly my taste broadens

sound of laughter  
from behind the wall -  
the geraniums in bloom

sound of laughter  
- low art behind the wall -  
the geraniums in bloom

spring rain  
amongst the bird sounds  
a human whistle

with the letter

spring rain  
amongst the bird sounds  
a human whistle

a strand of hair  
unfolds  
with the letter

after my friend leaves  
crumbs on the carpet  
and the fire's sound

after my friend leaves  
drums on the carpet  
and the fire's sound

the daffodil's roots  
cling as I tug -  
frown lines tighten



the daffodil's roots  
- cling as I tug -  
frown lines tighten

old lift  
through the grille  
three women in pastel T-shirts

lingering  
after the Bashō Day  
the tea master's smile

lingering  
after the Best Day  
the for master's smile

summer breeze -  
the long drapes  
don't move an inch

summer breeze -  
the long dapples  
don't move an inch

in the formal garden  
children play  
hide-and-seek

in the formal garden  
children play  
hide-and-seek

violins...  
clouds as they move  
leave traces behind

incoming tide  
a child's handprint  
still in the sand

incoming tide  
a child's handprint  
still in the sand

through the train window  
father and son  
say goodbye on mobiles



three peals of a bell  
light wind lifts  
ivy leaves

three beads of a bell  
light wind life  
ivy leaves

day after day  
bits of the chained bicycle  
disappear

coming from behind  
a silent jogger passes  
too close in the dark

coming from behind  
a silent jogger passes  
too close in the dark

sliding on and off  
the river's edge  
autumn leaves

the puning cat

claw marks  
on my silk jacket  
the purring cat

claw marks  
on my silk jacket  
the purring cat

behind drawn curtains  
distorted shadow  
of a falling leaf

sweeping the garden  
I forget about my landlord's  
latest threats



sweeping the garden  
I forget about my landlord's  
latest threats

only when it moves  
seeing the stone-coloured spider  
on the path

Remembrance Day  
thinking of a grandfather  
I never met

Remembrance Day  
thinking of a grandfather  
I never met

a smiling soldier  
caught at war - flashes his knife  
for the camera

in my childhood bed  
as the light fades  
the silhouette of a heron  
in canal reeds

as the light fades  
the silhouette of a heron  
in canal reeds

in my childhood bed  
the rattles of passing trains  
echo around the room

in my childhood bed  
the rattles of passing trains  
echo around the room

passing the flats  
another family's clothes  
hang on our line

passing the flats  
another family's clothes  
hang on our line

morning tube  
free newspaper under  
the sleeping man's foot



the sleeping man's foot  
free newspaper under  
morning tube

bits of poster  
and station mould  
map out unknown regions

bits of poster  
and station mould  
map out unknown regions

meeting  
for the first time  
as we say goodbye

meeting  
for the first time  
as we say goodbye

three dolls  
surveying customers  
at the car boot sale

three dolls  
surveying customers  
at the car boot sale

after dad  
tidies her scarf  
the toddler fixes it herself

after dad  
likes her again  
the toddler likes it herself

background jazz  
on his mobile phone  
a man walks to and fro

background jazz  
on his mobile phone  
a man woke to and the

mellow autumn  
the scents of dead flowers  
return to the garden

mellow autumn  
the scents of dead flowers  
return to the garden

breadcrumbs cupped in my hand -  
the last notes of an opera

only the cacti remain  
the café changed  
to a hi-fi shop



only the cast remain  
the cast changed  
to a hi-fi shop

vibrating  
with the pneumatic drill  
arm tattoo

vibrating  
with the pneumatic drill  
arm tattoo



closed pub  
on the doorstep  
half a pint of beer

closed pub  
on the doortop  
half a pint of beer

interview  
after the contest  
the prize fighter drops his arms  
to be hugged

interview  
the space between me  
and the panel

interview  
the space between me  
and the panel

next to the poster  
'Strike Against Stress'  
fish in a tank

next to the poster  
'Strike Against Suez'  
fish in a tank

off the windy beach  
my cold hand  
warmed by the palmist

off the windy beach  
my cold hand  
warmed by the palmist

winter rush-hour  
rebounding from the pavement  
illuminated rain

alone on this hill  
ghosts of discarded kites  
drift into the sky



putting away  
warm dried towels:  
thoughts of my mother

putting away  
warm dried towels:  
thoughts of my mother

the box  
left in the garden  
begins to fill with snow



## Acknowledgements

- 2002: *Night Bus, An anthology of urban haiku*, edited by Steve Mason, Ram Publications, UK. *The New Haiku*, edited by John Barlow and Martin Lucas, Snapshot Press, UK.
- 2001: *The New Pond, An English-language Haiku Anthology*, edited by Emiko Miyashita, Haikukai, Japan.
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