

# *The Birds That Stay*

haiku by  
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first frost  
the birds that stay  
the birds that go

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Eucalypt, 2013

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spring market  
we buy blue beads  
for the bowerbird

news of a grandchild  
I touch a furled bud  
in spring rain

childrens' zoo  
the one black-faced sheep  
gets all the pats

gardenia buds  
an empty snail shell  
fills with rain

a heron  
in these beach reeds  
. . . only once

through a rusted fence  
a brown mare and her foal  
grazing in spring rain

the sky  
shrinks  
around the eagle



closing day  
vine tomatoes  
warm my hands

autumn reflections  
the ochre of rockface  
warms the river

late winter  
white fur from the cat bed  
in the magpie's beak

window spider —  
the comfort  
of your silence

half light  
the river scarred  
by a heron

one tiny feather  
all the colours of the bird  
weightless on my palm

fireside knitting  
the unfinished scarf  
around my neck

son overseas . . .  
I add a gum leaf  
to his present

lost for a while  
the 'Spirit of Christmas'  
turns up in the kids'room

Christmas aftermath  
the slow uncrinkling  
of cellophane

drought —  
the dusty eyelashes  
of a cow

sweltering heat  
shouting *the same to you*  
to a crow

stormy lagoon  
a moorhen's nest tugged  
from the reeds

tsunami dreams —  
grass pillows for the homeless  
on Bashō's *Narrow Road*



from a lifted oar  
a shimmer connects the sky  
and sunlit river

morning train  
the river mist reflected  
on commuter iPads

Venetian courtyard  
a cat turns its Carnevale face  
to the moon

# Acknowledgments

- first frost  
*The Heron's Nest* 11 2009 Special Mention Haiku
- spring market  
*Presence* 31 2007
- news of a grandchild  
*Notes from the Gean* 2 (4) 2011
- children's zoo  
*The Heron's Nest* March 2007; HSA anthology 2007
- gardenia buds  
*Blithe Spirit* 20 (4) 2010
- through a rusted fence  
*Blithe Spirit* 20 (4) 2010
- the sky  
HC 4th Kokako Haiku and Senryu Competition 2007
- closing day  
2nd Prize Kaji Aso Studio 23rd Annual Haiku Contest 2011
- autumn reflections  
4th Yamadera Bashō Memorial Museum English Haiku Contest:  
anthology 2012
- window spider  
*Presence* 33 2007
- half light  
Commended Katikati Haiku Contest 2011
- one tiny feather  
*Presence* 47 2012
- fireside knitting  
*Presence* 42 2010
- Christmas aftermath  
*Evening Breeze*: anthology of inaugural Janice M Bostok Award
- dusty eyelashes  
*Spinifex* 2006; BHS *the brief* 91 March 2012
- sweltering heat  
*Spinifex* 2006; *The Humours of Haiku* Iron Press, 2012
- tsunami dreams  
2nd prize International Kusamakura Haiku Competition 2011
- from a lifted oar  
1st prize Genkissu! World Wide Hekinan Haiku Contest 2011.
- morning train  
*Evening Breeze*: anthology of inaugural Janice M Bostok Award
- Venetian courtyard  
1st Prize Inaugural Calico Cat bilingual haiku contest





