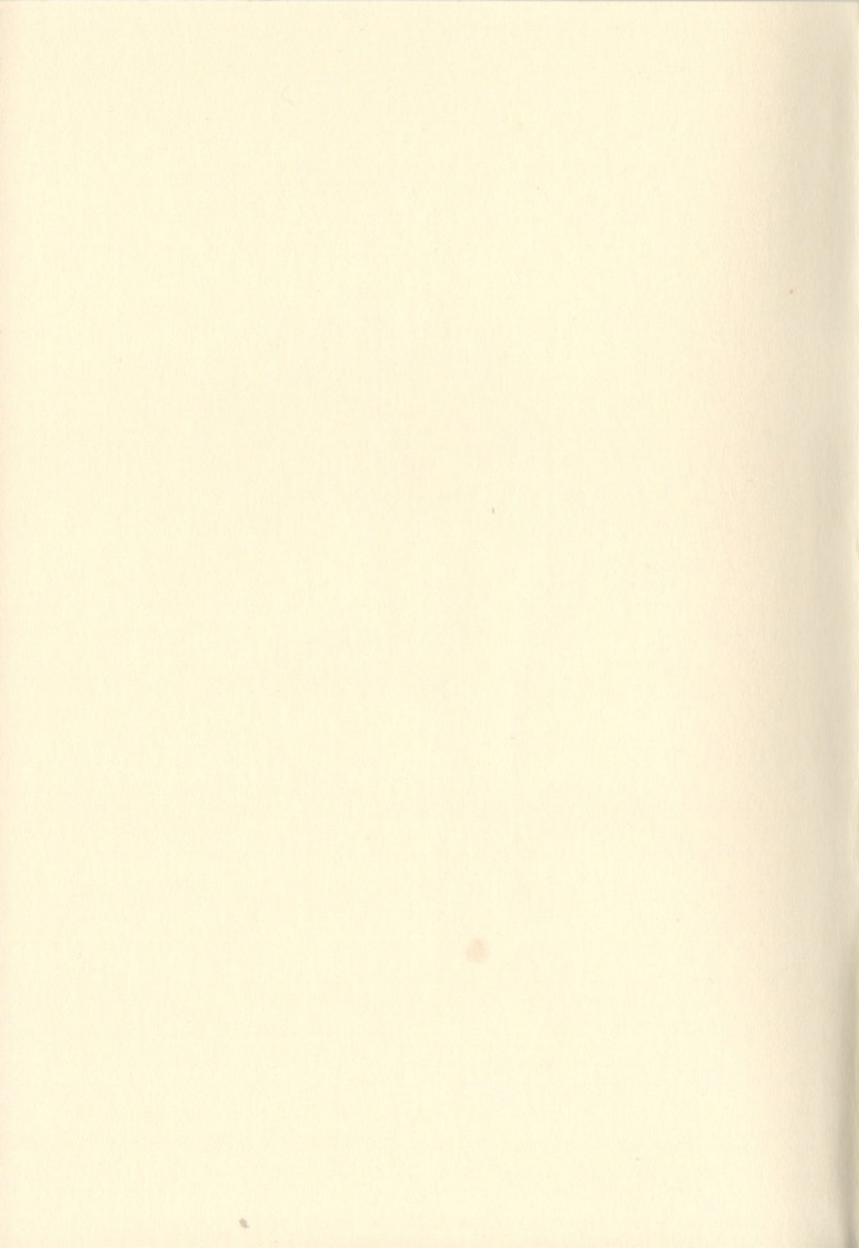


CORNFLOWERS



Evelyn H. Hermann



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Over ten years ago I started writing senryu. This chapbook is a small collection of poems in that genre, my first book.

— Evelyn H. Hermann

CORNFLOWERS

The name cornflower (centaurea) derived from a certain centaur in Greek mythology famous for his ability as a healer. Travelers to Europe know why these flowers are so named because wherever they go, they find the grainfields filled with blue corn flowers and red corn poppies. They are ideal buttonhole flowers and for that reason have been called bachelor's buttons.

CORNFLOWERS

*vast field
of waving corn –
all ears*

garden pond
a raccoon
drinking moonshine

woodpecker
in the pine tree
right on pitch

downpour over Paris
everywhere
French puddles

city zoo

the bald man and the gorilla
stare at each other

again she swears
at her husband –
again, the parrot

the old owl
in the oak –
it doesn't give a hoot

frosty morning –
at the meadow's edge
a moose smoking

crossroads
cars and geese
honking

this mixed-up world –
the giraffe
above it all

endless chirping
in the pyracantha –
a berry Christmas

the butterfly
chased by
a twitching tail and whiskers

old haiku book
a silverfish sought
the essence of the moment

bluejays –
 how I wish they were
 an endangered species

observing the centipede –
 all those legs
 enough for a chorus line

removing ticks
 from my dog –
 sound of the grandfather clock

after a full day's work
on the farm –
counting sheep

depressed
over added wrinkles –
but then there's the Sharpei

ladybugs
feeding on aphids
feeding on roses

the giraffe
seldom
in a downer

men's club lobby
a vase filled
with bearded irises

planting petunias –
an overlooked Easter egg
resurrected

along the highway
ignoring the speed limit
tumbleweed

potatoes
forgotten in the bin
eyes popping

again
the neighbors bickering –
ripe crab apples

gourmet chef
at home
on the range

avenue grill
chilly outside
chili inside

in my angel hair pasta
a human one, too

intently watching
the basketball game
her ice cream cone dribbles

vacated campsite –
on the table
an ant picnic

ice cream parlor –
an old friend asks me,
what's the scoop?

campaign breakfast –
the candidates
waffling

trapped,
in the vinegar bottle –
mother

cooked prunes
their wrinkles gone

after the loggers
the forest
stumped

Ravel's Bolero –
somewhere
the needle sticks

diarrhea –
the toilet paper
on a roll

brass Buddha
stuck in the alcove –
incensed

Sunday afternoon
in the clock shop –
lots of time on my hands

sexuality lecture
at the library –
fully booked

under the beach umbrella
a bald man –
all the hair on his chest

at breakfast
her hair
in a soft bun

after viagra . . . Niagara

blaring
through the crowded mall
“Silent Night”

Christmas ball reflection –
my nose
really not that big

pine forest stillness
you can hear
a needle drop

archaeology class
he bones up
for the final exam

winter solstice –
at the dentist's
her bridge is ready

city park –
a street gang
stages a fistival

at the end of his rope
a monk
tolls the chapel bell

still reading
far past bedtime –
the bulb burns out

anti-wrinkle cream ad
the model
too young for wrinkles

senior women's
social gathering
wattles quivering

Las Vegas –
stuck to the slot machines
dough nuts

out of the bar
high heels
followed by a high heel

repeated phone call –
someone I don't even know
asks me how I am

a customer giving the clerk
a piece of his mind
as she loses hers

in the barber's chair
he trims down
his haiku

out of the forest
a logger's truck
lumbers along

her laundry
in the washer —
she watches a soap opera

frosty morning
even my tongue
coated

back from a spring outing
my windshield
bugged

early morning –
at the bar again
the ballet dancer

heated argument
at supper time –
the teakettle steaming

teenagers
horsing around
ponytails bobbing



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