

a poetry anthology by: **AMRITA NARAINA**

The 27th. Letter of the
Alphabet



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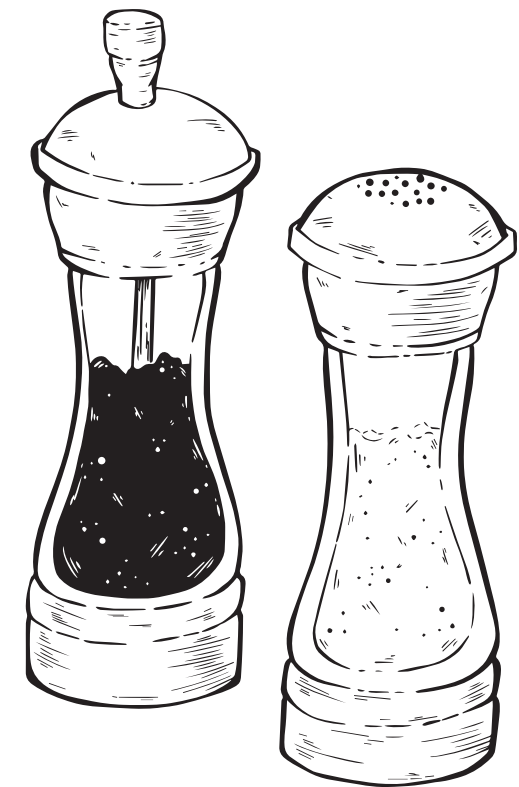
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1919

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The mention of 1919 in the poem suggests a post-World War I setting. During the war, coffee gained popularity among soldiers as a stimulant and source of energy. It became a staple in military rations, providing soldiers with a sense of comfort amid the hardships of war. The reference to war wounds and combat neurosis suggests the lingering impact of the war on the beloved, adding a layer of complexity to the narrative.

The last line, "We ran out of salt," in the context of the poem, could carry a symbolic meaning. If we consider that salt neutralizes bitterness in coffee, then the absence of salt might signify a lack of something that alleviates or balances the bitterness in the characters' lives.



Tin Soldier

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"Tin Soldier" is a poem that explores the delicate and transient nature of art, love, and existence. The imagery of clinched arms and the melting of paper and tin symbolize the intimate and transformative power of love.

The poem "Tin Soldier" shares thematic elements with Hans Christian Andersen's famous fairy tale, "The Steadfast Tin Soldier." Both works incorporate the symbolism of a tin soldier and explore themes of fragility, love, and the transient nature of existence.

Both works incorporate elements of fantasy and a yearning for an idealized existence. The poem's reference to fantasizing about an Italian Renaissance and rotating on an axis echoes the dreamlike qualities present in Andersen's fairy tale.



Odin Told Me To Do It

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"Odin Told Me to Do It" expresses a willingness to break societal norms and personal commitments in pursuit of knowledge. The speaker rejects the influence of traditional fantastical figures like dwarves or elves, emphasizing their independence. The reference to mead, a drink associated with wisdom in Norse mythology, symbolizes a desire for profound knowledge.

The poem suggests a willingness to be a shameless "thief" of the imperceptible, indicating a hunger for understanding intangible aspects of life. The desire to accumulate knowledge and hoard education, even to the point of being a shameless collector of history, portrays a relentless pursuit of wisdom that persists until death. Overall, the poem reflects a bold and unapologetic quest for knowledge, guided by the mythical Odin's influence.



Confront the Dragon, Get the Gold Page 60

"Confront the Dragon, Get the Gold" intricately weaves a metaphorical tapestry of self-discovery, vulnerability, and resilience. The poem paints the body as a revered temple, its golden heart shrouded in protective fleece. Through vivid imagery of card games, warfare, and mythological allusions, the speaker navigates a journey fraught with challenges, facing internal dragons and engaging in a battle for wisdom and creativity.

The climax reveals a transformation—a heart worn on the chest, huffing poisonous breaths, and guarded by a legion of heads. This metaphorical armor signifies newfound strength, embodying the intricate dance of confronting inner turmoil and emerging with a core of resilience.




Eye of Ra Page 65

"Eye of Ra" delves into the intense internal struggles of the speaker. The poem vividly captures the profound repose of vehemence within their soul, symbolized by boiling and dried blood beneath their nails—a visceral portrayal of inner turmoil. The rigorous effort to control this emotional chaos is likened to seething lava, illustrated through imagery of massacre and tidal waves of ichor during moments of wakefulness.

In the second part, the speaker introduces themselves as the "Daughter" born from Nuit, embodying the epithet of the Eye of Ra—a mythical huntress with a dual nature, both aggressive and pacified. The solar imagery of being doused in the Sun and set ablaze by hotspur violence contrasts with the arrival of a gentle One, marking a transformative shift in tone and dynamics. Overall, "Eye of Ra" captures a journey of internal conflict, resilience, and transformation through vivid and mythological imagery.



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About the Author



Amrita Naraine, is an Indo-Caribbean; Guyanese writer and poet. As her debut literary work, "The 27th. Letter of the Alphabet," her anthology embraces her creative aptitude in narrative, descriptive and abstract elements of poetry. Her reverence for knowledge in history, fantasy, and observing reality illustrates exploratory dimensions of her work, reflecting her passion for literature.



The 27th. Letter of the Alphabet

Navigate a marvellous world of poetry; a world of thrilling literature, from history, love, confusion, strength, bravery, beauty, identity, to gameplay, satire, fantasy, chance, and time.
Peer into the author's mind; a vision of cleverness, wit, and ingenuity.