

ADRIANNE KALFOPOULOU

Refusing To Be Demeter

No, I don't like that myth, the way it brings the bled flesh
and death so close: I don't want or need the lesson —
I know it well and prefer to leave behind the grief,
let Persephone have her time with Hades or Hal, eat or not eat
the pomegranate. I did what I could, scoured every inch of what I loved
through her gaze — all of it, the blooming ground, acrid and sweet,
the burgeoning growth, while like winter I gradually stiffened,
weather whittling what I once knew to be me, and in this chill
that calamity — limbs torn in the sheer element of lament.

No, I refuse this story. I who am not a god,
I who cannot follow her anyway, bound to nature's law.
Why not sit to what I can enjoy — I could eat the fruit myself.
October coats the air, the temperature has dropped, the offerings are ripe.

Credits:

“Growing” in *poem, home, An Anthology of Ars Poetica*, eds. Jennifer Hill, Dan Waber.

“Mute As Lawns Nobody Dares Walk Across” in *BPJ (Beloit Poetry Journal)*

“He Wants Me to Describe It” in *Room Magazine* (contest winner)

“The Border” in *Crab Orchard Review*

“First Audition” in *JMI (Journal of Motherhood Initiative)*

Adrienne Kalfopoulou lives and teaches in Athens, Greece, and serves as a faculty mentor in Regis University’s low residency MFA program. She is the author of three poetry collections, most recently, *A History of Too Much* (Red Hen 2018). Her publications include two essay collections, and several chapbooks, with featured or anthologized work in UK, Canadian, American, Polish, and Greek online and print venues. Recent or forthcoming appearances in *HOTEL*, *The Common*, *Inverted Syntax*, *Slag Glass City*, and *Writers and Their Mothers*; blog posts, reviews, sample work & rants can be found @ www.adriannekalfopoulou.com.