



THE FANTASTIC
OTHER

THE FANTASTIC OTHER ISSUE 08

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Cover Art: “Forest Maiden” by Mirjana M.

Mirjana M. (they/them) are a digital artist and writer from Belgrade, Serbia. Their work focuses on exploring the juxtaposition of various elements through mixed media of photography, double exposure, textures and light. Their work most often explores concepts of duality and has appeared in *Gulf Stream Literary*, *The Good Life Review*, *waxing & waning*, *Vocivia*, *Broken Antler*, *Spellbinder*, *New Limestone Review*, and other places. They authored three poetry collections. You can see more of their work at their blog olorielmoonshadow.wordpress.com or get in touch on Twitter (@selena_oloriel) and Instagram (cyanide_cherries).

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Questions to a Silent God

by Bat Collazo

Is it merely that your avian tongue has no speech
without the taste of blood?

Is it that those peace-loving Wanes
had never licked their thumbs
after holding their enemies' hearts?

She with her little cat teeth and her resin tears
like a wounded tree,
she with the mouth to hear you, far from you,
in the places once your home?

She, *Óðs mey gefna*; Odd's girl, given away?

When you waded
with muddy
feet,
long
legs,
head cocked, wings shuffling,
did your wit wonder at your brother's breath?
At the call and response,
his gasps, your song?

And that third sibling, that blooded flush, to open the way?
Were you frenzied, then, Hœnir?

Did you wonder, then, Did you know?
if a usurper would come?
Were you mad, then, when preening?
Or did that come later, table

two tipped on
legs,
when it held steady on three?
Were you conquered, brother?

About the Author

Bat Collazo is a queer, Latinx poet. Ze is the editor of *Blood Unbound* and has been published in places such as *The Wild Hunt*, *Troublemaker Firestarter*, and *Exist Otherwise Literary Journal*. For more information, please visit batcollazo.com.