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# Hecate

LITERARY MAGAZINE



## BIRTH

A VIOLENT WORLD  
DEMANDS A VIOLENT BIRTH

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Front cover art by Xanthe E. Horner



She carries the sun by Olivia Mansfield

# *when the roses pulled the house down*

BY KATIE KALYANI NESS

*Ki shan i Romani, Adoi san' i chov'hani*

The house smells like honey, crickets and sweet-dark treacle. Descending the curvaceous stairs, the warm air hugs my toes as the mahogany floorboards creak in the golden heat like cicadas. As though moaning for a remedy. Perhaps a little mugwort will heal the wound?

The deliquescent roses pull the house down, arching like a delicate, swollen shelter of lava; lymphatically, for hundreds of years.

The perfume of them is so insatiable, it soaks the air. Foxes gather at the gate, whilst older women dressed in black believe it to be the sign of god and walk by whispering prayers and blessings for lost souls caught between heaven and earth.

Khalēah sips splinters and willow bark from the glass. She felt a thick, meandering siege cramp up inside her, as her heart slithered away from her body and into the swimming pool of drowned insects. Its hands pulling along the grass like a crocodile desperate for the water.

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Back at the coffee shop, she drinks sombre bottled concoctions of belladonna and whiskey to commune with the perished in the daisies.

The dogs howl at mountain wolves whilst a strange woman buries herself in the garden patch with growling vegetables and beetroot leaves that unfurl from her black hair.

Her bulbous, purple lungs wheeze in time within the heavy stomach of soil.

Her broom, pitch-fork ready to puncture demons and preserve their essence in bell-jars, and bake them into midnight blackberry pie.

Under the rising seal-skin moon, sunflowers cut the sky with their teeth, drawing blood from the clouds like vampires and the slate walls cough up dark blue thistles; clay-heavy and secret-scented.

I watched my reflection rebel against the beasts being born out of the water of the wishing well: spreading their bodies across the grass, over the violets to feast upon the doves in the dovecote. And a swarm of ants are summoned in the thunderstorm to honour dead honey bees with funeral bed rings of petals and *martenitsas*.

That night I saw a fish that wasn't really a fish as much as she was a nymph, with stories on her tongue. Ghosts in her eyes and cigarette stained memories on her fingertips. Fireflies float about her: golden oracles carrying messages from the otherside.

The honey-coloured days are left behind and a few passing trees blush scarlet. I see autumn's flame is ahead in this rotten fairytale that threatens to tear the moon like a cat butchering butterflies: their paper wings, a collage stuck to the kitchen window.

And she can't see..How everything she touches turns to ash. Her bitterness consumes her, the way a fig devours a wasp.

Her violent, crayon brown eyes are scribbled with sorrow and transmit the sparks of sadness onto the shining rain.

With a flick of her frown, she lights another cigarette, pulls out her liver and stabs it with shards of black mirror to divinate an answer...

She tells me:

*"I don't know how to love. I've got nothing to offer, except my bones to make into chimes?  
My past haunts me too much to love you..."*

*Čuckerdya pal m're per*

*Čáven save miseçe!*

*Čuckerdya pal m're per*

*Den miseçeske drom odry prejiál!"*

### **Romani translation into English:**

***\*Kí shan i Romani Adoi san' i chov'hani***

*"Wherever gypsies go, There the witches are, we know."*

***\*Čuckerdya pal m're per, Čáven save miseçe! Čuckerdya pal m're pe Den miseçeske  
drom odry prejiál!***

*`Frogs in my belly, Devour what is bad! Frogs in my belly Show the evil the way out!"*

## CONTRIBUTORS

poetry. 'Get Over Yourself' was published by Burning Eye Books in 2020. Find her on Instagram @leanneymu or on Twitter @LeanneModenPoet or visit her website [leannemoden.com](http://leannemoden.com)

**Echoing Multiverse** creates art and blogs under a pseudonym because she told her daughter never to use her real name on the internet. She began painting during the first covid lockdown in 2020, exploring stories, history (and herstory), and beliefs through art. She is a big fan of the Goddess in all of her many manifestations. Besides painting, she enjoys golf, paddleboarding, and blasphemy. She can be found in the suburbs of Philadelphia, on Instagram @echoingmultiverse or on the web at [echoingmultiverse.com](http://echoingmultiverse.com)

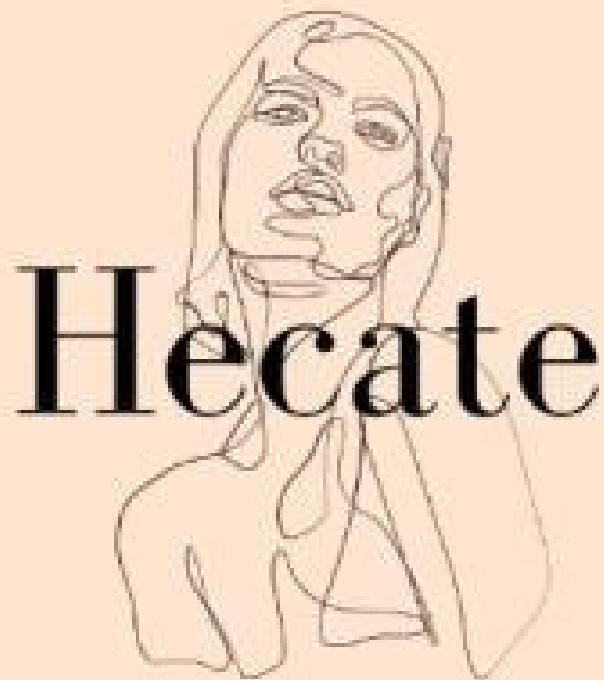
A northern witch/teacher in the cold depths of the Northumberland surrounded by animals and children, **Sophia Murray** uses her spare time to write about the earth, love and loss, usually translating her scribbles into songs. Find Sophia on Instagram @sophia.is

At a glance **Katie Kalyani Ness** is a mermaid, in our world she is a writer, artist, belly dancer, ayurvedic yoga teacher, women's circle keeper, Cacao ceremonialist and ectopic pregnancy survivor. Dancing makes her bloom. She thrives along quirky edges, roving with the rippling rhythms of shadows and light that we call life. As a practising hedgewitch and Magdalene priestess she teaches of the sacred feminine and goddess archetypes in her workshops. Katie has essays and articles published with Rebelie Society, We for Women, Kindred Spirit Magazine, Yogi Approved and Elephant Journal. She is also published in an all women's collection of memoirs entitled 'Phoenix Rising' and she is working on publishing an illustrated poetry book. Find her on Instagram @katie\_wild\_yogi

**Novraka** (Magdalena Żak) is an artistic soul, born in Poland while her heart resides in Costa Rica. Her main method or artistic expression is through digital collage. She is inspired mainly by nature, the cosmic flow of sexual energy, psychedelic experiences and all kinds of dreams and magic. Find her on Instagram @novraka

**Ianna Offield** is a disabled, queer, Chicana from New Mexico, USA now living in Northern Ireland. Her work has appeared in Abridged, Dodging the Rain, Rust+Moth, and Porridge Magazine. She can be found on Instagram @alannaoffield or at [alannaoffield.com](http://alannaoffield.com)

**Katie Oliver** has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and the Bath Flash Award, and was awarded an honourable mention in the Reflex Fiction Winter Competition. She has further work published in various places, such as Dust Poetry and Lunate Fiction, and is a first reader for Forge Literary Magazine and Tiny Molecules. She can be found on Twitter @katie\_rose\_o



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