

FM REVIEW 2009-2012 4

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: I recommend acceptance of Gift, and rejection of Found. Reviewer consensus is that Gift is the better poem, and given the limited opportunities for publishing poetry in the journal, at this point I would recommend having a 1 poem/author/year policy (obviously can be reconsidered as we proceed). I'd appreciate it if the author could address the excellent critique by reviewer #2.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: Dear, We are pleased to accept Gift, which reviewers considered the better poem, subject to a few minor revisions. Please look at reviewer #2's extensive critique, which contains many valuable suggestions worthy of your consideration. Specifically, please consider removing the phrase "as a child" in stanza one (you might insert "once" to indicate these activities happened in the distant past). Also avoid starting stanzas 2 and 4 with "then," and eliminating dashes.

Reviewers and I agree that the final stanza needs a recasting. As it stands, it is too didactic, and the turn toward direct speech seems awkward. Think about how you could create a more open-ended feeling for the reader - i.e., "We are taught not to treat our families/ But my father's gift to me/Lingers in my mind/Like scattered red pills" (This is only meant to an example of avoiding touching, but rather cliched generalities such as "loving care," and sticking with a metaphor that works so well earlier in the poem; not literally how you should rework it).

COMMENT TO EDITOR: The author has thoughtfully responded to the critiques and suggestions offered by reviewers. The result is a much-improved poem. I recommend acceptance. Please note that the revised poem is on pg 1. For some reason, the original poem is on pg. 2 and this should obviously be deleted before publication.

COMMENT TO AUTHOR: Dear Dr. Bronson, thank you for this conscientious and thoughtful revision. It is a very moving poem and serves the double purpose of being not only poignant but thought-provoking, and I hope generates some interesting conversations among readers about the caveat against treating family members. The last stanza is lovely in its evocation of "what remains" and also provocative in its challenge to conventional wisdom.