

FSH DECISION LETTER 2015 12

Based on my review and on reviewer comments I am not able to accept your submission. However, with some revision, this can become a compelling poem that provides insight into the minds of persons with mental illness. Please consider the following recommendations:

1) Please remove the subtitle - "a poem about mental illness" - this is not necessary. Also consider a different title entirely. I noticed you'd also used the title "Wrecked" - I think this is a stronger title.

2) As per reviewer recommendations, I'm recommending that your introductory paragraph about what you are trying to convey in this poem be included should we decide to accept the poem for publication.

3) The meter of the poem is inconsistent. Note that this refers not only to syllables but to the emphasis on the syllables. For example, some of the lines are written in iambic pentameter, but others are not. You do not need to slavishly stick to a certain number of syllables per line or a particular meter, but in this version sometimes the lines read awkwardly. Review syllables and emphasis to improve flow.

4) In the first stanza, I do not feel that the line is substantially improved by the use of profanity. Please consider substituting another word here.

5) I agree with reviewer 1 that the poem could be shortened somewhat. Consider deleting a couple of stanzas (some are stronger than others).

6) In a couple of lines, your meaning is unclear. Please review the attached revision for meaning, as well as some suggested editing.

We believe with some rewriting this poem can make a valuable contribution to readers' subjective understanding of mental illness.

WRECKED DECISION LETTER

I am pleased to inform you that your work has now been accepted for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. The one-word title is powerful and intriguing, leading the reader to want to know more. The revisions regarding meter significantly improved the poem, leading to more felicitous rhythms that carry the reader along into the felt experience of mental illness. The removal of a couple of stanzas does not diminish the effectiveness of the poem, but rather focuses it. The clarity of the poem is improved, while not reducing its force. All in all, this is an excellent revision.