

FSH COMMENTS 2016 11

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a lovely poem about the journey from conception to birth. I found it moving and filled with the miracle of life. The richness of detail (the fluttery, then surprising kicks, the doubling of the heartbeats, the pain raining down) will remind any female reader who has been pregnant and delivered of the agony and ecstasy. The last stanza is particularly beautiful, capturing the freshness and agelessness of a newborn, its joyous "sunlight after the storm." My only question is whether you want to use the old convention of capitalizing every first word of each new line. The conversational tone of the work seems to work against this formality. I would recommend using lower case unless you are beginning a new thought or "sentence."

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a lovely poem about the journey from conception to birth. I found it very moving. I thought it captured the miracle of pregnancy - and the real agony of the body during labor. I have one minor suggestion that the author avoid capitalizing the first word of every new line, which seems excessively formal to me and out of sync with the poem's conversational style. Otherwise, I liked the use of imagery and language ("strong and surprising/as the knock at the door/from a stranger"; "tossed in the wide sea/of my own flesh"), as well as the sea metaphor. The vivid details that will recall pregnancy and birth to any woman who has been pregnant.