

FSH REVIEW 2020 4

I love the surprise of learning that what brings the narrator a renewal of love is... increased isolation. This feels relevant to this journal as it suggests that isolation can be healing as well as stressful, depending on the context. It is instructive in a sideways sort of way, as it shows us that there are ways to make use of isolation, especially if it is chosen. My problem with this piece is that it is not compressed enough. You may have been trying to adhere to a specific word limit, and thus actually included more words that you actually need. I would trim it, make it even more spare. And in one place I would (slightly) expand it: give your reader some clue as to what the narrator understood about her partner or marriage that allowed the flow of affection to resume. Just a hint, just a clue, one sentence or partial sentence would be excellent. I would also leave reference to a "condo" out...since the point is not the type of residence but the separateness of the narrator--the space for contemplation and self-relection. Title is not very exciting nor does it add to the piece. I would consider a title that is more visual and evokes the best of the isolation experience, perhaps referring to something seen by the narrator during this important time. " In any case please know I greatly enjoyed reading and thinking about this piece.