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Letters

Pat Reynolds

Rie Sheridan

Jennifer Crow

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Mythcon 51: The Mythic, the Fantastic, and the Alien

Albuquerque, New Mexico • Postponed to: July 30 – August 2, 2021



LETTERS:

Dear Jennifer, Tony, Charlotte, Sandy, Stepan, Charlee, Kathrynne, Mary Ann, Joy, Father Nikodim, Shannon, Adrienne, Gwenyth and Trent,

Thank-you for another *Mythic Circle*.

Personally, I feel that *Mythic Circle* should be what it is - something that in thirty years time, will be discovered in second-hand bookstores, and the finder will call excitedly 'Look, it's got X in - and Y - and Z - however did they get those three together, and in a hundred years time, collectors of X or Z are going to be bidding huge sums for a *Mythic Circle*, the first place where their created world was mentioned, or first place of publication.

But also, I feel, *Mythic Circle* is there to help those who are never going to be internationally recognized, those of us who write because it is as natural and needful as walking. To be reviewed helps us write, and also to read.

So, conscious that it has been many years since I paid back for my reading by reviewing, here are some comments. I adored Tony Baez Milan's "The One-Eyed Bicyclist with the Amazingly Long Grin." The only thing that snagged at all in the wonderfully flowing story was the Christian reference to stoning. I had a big problem with Charlotte I. Taylor's "Acorn": I didn't believe in the situation: it all seemed too stereotypical. Replace the Oak and Symeli with something creative but unmagical (tea-blending, Corgi- breeding or some such), and you would have a completely barren tale. I keep returning to Mary Ann Toman's "City Garden": so much is going on, out of the picture: I don't know whether I have invented the connection with the courtly(urban)/rural theme of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - but the connections, like the garden itself, are, paradoxically, only there unseen.

Adrienne Rie's "Sibling Rivalry" is an amazing retelling (just when I think an old tale's been retold enough times, along comes another teller, to prove me wrong. The first section is confusing: who is following the pebbles - I thought Mother at first. I don't think 'glancing' is the right word, in the last stanza of section II: it isn't a natural action for someone 'standing before'. If she were working before the cage - a glance into it

would be fine. But she's standing before it. What is she looking at when she isn't glancing in? It would be wonderful if you could find a food reference for Gretal in the penultimate stanza of section IV, to parallel 'I/grew stale'. Something yeasty? The last stanza of section IV is superfluous. The last stanza of section V, too, adds little. In the final section, do you need to tell us 'Ambition warred ...?': you show us this clearly in the next two stanzas (again, a little food here would have been nice - future feasts? her own kitchen?). And (you will think my review is nothing but 'drop the last stanza from the section!') the last stanza could well finish with 'wine.'

Best wishes to you all,

Pat Reynolds

Gwenyth and Trent--

Thank you for the copy of Issue 22. I was impressed to see so many of your authors had been printed/published in other venues. I was a little disappointed however that my name was incorrect on my poem...I don't mind going by either "Adrienne" or "Rie", but my last name is Sheridan, and I wish that it could have been either Adrienne Sheridan or Rie Sheridan rather than Adrienne Rie. I would greatly appreciate a correction in the next issue if possible, because no one will know who I am this way....

thank you again,

Rie Sheridan

The MC co-editor sincerely apologizes for his mistake.

I just wanted to write and let you know that I received the contributor's copy of *Mythic Circle* which you sent to me. There was a lot of good stuff in the issue—I especially liked Shannon Gray's illustrations, and several of the poems were very good, including Joy Reid's work, and "Sibling Rivalry" by Adrienne Rie. Thanks for letting me be a part of issue #22. . . .

Sincerely,
Jennifer Crow
