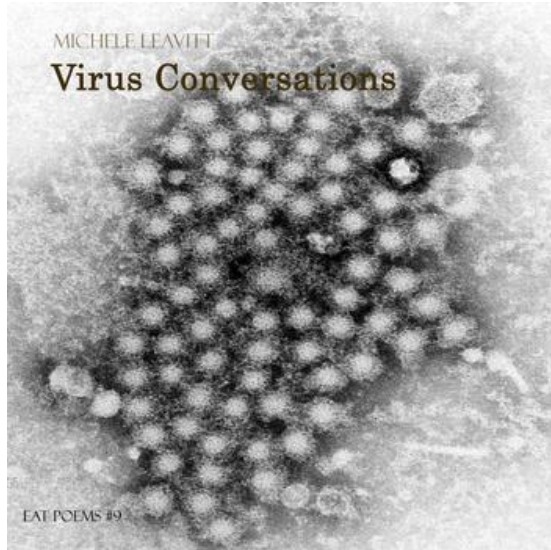


Virus Conversations Michele Leavitt



1. The Virus on Blind Emigration 00:49
2. The City Strategizes 01:11
3. Citizen A's short history of addiction 01:06
4. The Virions Strategize 01:10
5. The City Confesses 00:33
6. Citizen C Bargains with the Gods 01:23
7. The Virus Mimics Mistakes 00:30
8. Citizen H loses a brother 00:59
9. Viral Documentary 01:10
10. The City's Ode to Skin 01:37
11. Viral Ode to Blood 02:08
12. The City Divides the Citizens 01:18
13. The Citizens Speak to the City 00:38
14. Citizen O meditates on rosa rogusa 00:54
15. The Virus Questions the Citizens 00:53
16. The City on Blind Luck 01:03
17. Citizen T before he faded 01:18
18. Citizen X to Pandora 01:09
19. The City Hears Bachman's Warbler 00:45

Acknowledgments

The following poems have been previously published as noted, sometimes in different form.

“Citizen A’s Short History of Addiction.” *The Glass Transition*. (Chapbook) Georgetown, KY: Finishing Line Press, 2010.

“Viral Ode to Blood,” “The City’s Ode to Skin,” and “The Virions Strategize.” *Tower Journal* <http://towerjournal.com/spring_2013/index.html> Vol. 5, No. 3. Spring/Summer 2013.

“Citizen T, before he faded.” *Back East*. Westbrook, ME: Moon Pie Press, 2013.

Credits

Poems by Michele Leavitt, recited by the author.

Editor and Producer, Mark Ari

Poet Bio

In 2010, I began working with colleagues at the University of Idaho in a Human Communities Research Consortium. My project involved an exploration in poetry of the human communities and conversations around the hepatitis C epidemic. As a former host for the virus, I was interested in social and medical discourse about the disease, especially around the phenomenon of stigma. My creative process was informed by research into the science of viruses, and the sociology of illness. I offer my deep thanks to Dr. Alicia Suarez, who generously shared her dissertation on hepatitis C and social stigma, and to my research partners at University of Idaho, Dr. Rosanna Lauriola and Dr. Ellen Kittell. Thanks also to the publications in which some of these poems have previously appeared, and to Mark Ari for his radical support of the literary arts.

I love to write and revise poetry and creative nonfiction. I’d like to be more conscious of ways that poems begin. It can happen accidentally when two events or objects seem eerily connected, and I try to articulate that connection. It can happen when I make a decision to write about a particular subject, like hepatitis C or a hemlock forest, and while investigating the subject through sitting with it and through research, some connections arise. Sometimes a poem can begin as an irritation: an injustice or illogic. And then there are the memories or mysteries that

seem to call out for the sort of explanations we make through metaphor. Most importantly, I try to pay attention.

My book-length poetry collection, *Back East*, won the inaugural Michael Macklin First Book Prize in 2013 and is available from Moon Pie Press at www.moonpiepress.com. A memoir excerpt, "No Trespassing," won The Ohio State University's 2010 William Allen Award for creative nonfiction, was published in *The Journal*, and received a notable listing in 2011 Best American Essays. Other works of poetry and prose appear in venues including *So to Speak*, *Dogwood*, *Umbrella*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *The Tower Journal*, *Passager*, and *Per Contra*. A high school dropout, hepatitis C survivor, and former trial attorney, I now live in Maine, where I teach and co-direct the Honors Program at Unity College. My newest poetry project combines a series of narrative elegies with a group of lyric poems set in endangered hemlock forests.

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The author recommends these links:

<http://www.hcvadvocate.org/index.asp>

<http://hepc.liverfoundation.org/>

Interested in more poems by Michele Leavitt? Check out her chapbook from Finishing Line Press, *The Glass Transition*.