

Shift Report Prize, Runner-up for Poetry

Oxymoron

by Liz Kerr

The locusts came in the form of

Ken and Barbie,

manicured antennae

PUSHING

business cards under the door

through the cracks

over the phone

booking lunch hour lectures

bearing quinoa salads, entrees over sternos, blonde brownies and bleached teeth

flirting with medical directors

mellifluous voices citing studies, statistics, surveys

always always always

quoting the package insert “*delayed absorption is believed to reduce the abuse liability*”

littering the break room table with their swag - pens and post-its and script pads
branded

OXYCONTIN

and thank you for attending notes with \$10 Starbucks cards

enough to become addicted.

About the poet: **Liz Kerr** has had poetry, short stories, and commentary published in The Best Short Stories of Philadelphia, Philadelphia City Paper, Philly Fiction, The Galway Review, Sixteen Magazine (Dublin), Jewish Currents Magazine, Rust Belt Rising, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The New York Times, The Lancet, The Ice Colony, Lo-Fed Chronicle and Irish Central. Her artwork has appeared in Mayday Magazine and Beyond Words Magazine. She is a registered nurse in heart transplant and oncology at a Philadelphia hospital. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing and dual Irish and American citizenship.