

A COMMON TOUCH

sand
in
my
hand
the
end
of
a
mountain

fox on the trail—
your hand held up
to my chest

toll booth lit for Christmas—
from my hand to hers
warm change

winter funeral—
the weight
of their family Bible

Christmas Eve—
bits of a price sticker
stuck to my finger

after-dinner mints
passed around the table
. . . slow-falling snow

afternoon shade—
moss rubbed off
where the branches touch

spring breeze—
the pull of her hand
as we near the pet store

a hand sticking out
from the balcony below . . .
small rain

mountain spring—
in my cupped hand
pine needles

Douglas's spirea
newly planted . . .
our gloved hands touch

loons scattering . . .
a floatplane touches down
into summer

tidepool anemones
now all closed . . .
a child's wet fingers

“Thought will not be
possible in your poem unless
you give the feet a place to stand,
the hands something to touch,
the eyes a world to see.”

—Wesley McNair

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These poems touched the following journals and books with previous publication: *A Hundred Gourds* (online), *Boema* (Romania), *Bones, Butterfly Dream, Carpe Diem: Canadian Anthology of Haiku* (Ottawa, Ontario: Les Éditions David; Nepean, Ontario: Borealis Press, 2008), *Close to the Wind* (Sammamish, Washington: Press Here, 2013), *Descant* (online), Electronic Poetry Network (Shreveport Library, Shreveport, Louisiana), *For a Moment* (Pointe Claire, Quebec: King's Road Press, 2009), *Frogpond, Global Haiku: Twenty-five Poets Worldwide* (Cullercoats, North Shields, U.K.: Iron Press; Oakville, Ontario: Mosaic Press, 2000), *Haiku Canada Review* (Canada), *Haiku Ireland* (Ireland), *The Haiku Anthology* (New York: Norton, 1999), *Haiku: A Poet's Guide* (Lincoln, Illinois: Modern Haiku Press, 2003), *Haikū sans frontières: Une anthologie mondiale* (Ottawa: Les Éditions David, 1998), *The Heron's Nest, IDG World Update, Illinois News, Inside the Mirror: 2005 Red Moon Anthology* (Winchester, Virginia: Red Moon Press, 2006), *Many Trails to the Summit* (Seattle, Washington: Rose Alley Press, 2010), *Mie Times* (Japan), *Modern Haiku, Montage: The Book* (Winchester, Virginia: Red Moon Press, 2010), *Moonset, Netslova* (Russia), *Network Literature* (Russia), *Never-Ending Story* blog (online), *Open Window* (Brooks Books, online, 2000), *Ottawa Citizen* (Canada), *Pebbles, Per Diem* (online), *Poetry Nippon* (Japan), *Presence* (England), *Seven: Jacar Press Anthology of Best Living English-Language Haiku Writers* (Durham, North Carolina: Jacar Press, 2013), *Slug in a Fast Food Cup* (Seattle: Luna Park Productions, 2009), *South by Southeast, Spring: The Journal of the E. E. Cummings Society, Thornewood Poems* (Haiku Canada Sheet, 1998), *Tidepools: Haiku On Gabriola* (Gabriola, British Columbia: Pacific-Rim Publishers, 2011), *Tinywords, Tobacco Road* blog (online), *Upstate Dim Sum, The View from Here, Vox Populi: 2007 Seattle Poetry Festival Anthology* (Seattle: Seattle Poetry Festival, 2007), *Waverley Writers* (Palo Alto, California: Waverley Writers, 2007), *When Butterflies Come: Haiku Society of America Members' Anthology* (New York: Haiku Society of America, 1993), and *Woodnotes*.

the ferry shakes
into my spine—
the whale's wake

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