

Jen Karetnick additional resources:

About "Letting One Thousand Flowers Blossom:" This poem is written in a self-invented form called an American sentence acrostic. If you read vertically, the first word of every line forms a 17-line American sentence as per Allen Ginsberg. In this case, the American sentence is "Unmasked and helmetless, riders roar by on motorbikes, percussive."

In my latest manuscript, *A Primer for Domestic Outlaws*, I wrote 26 American sentences, one for each letter of the alphabet. Each of them has its own title and is a poem in its own right. Then I turned each American sentence into an American sentence acrostic.

Here are three more examples:

[Post-Menopausal Love Poem That Begins with Guilt and Ends with Air Plants](#), *Sweet: Lit*, 2021 Poetry Contest Finalist

[The Opossum Is a Marsupial](#), *The Shore*

[Snowbirds](#), *Fourth River*

In addition to the 26 American sentences and 26 American sentence acrostics, the manuscript also contains 26 abecedarians and 26 beautiful outlaws. You might say I got a little bored and obsessed with the alphabet during the pandemic!

Aside from the formal constraints, the poems in this manuscript, as many of my others do, focus on the natural world where I live in Miami and how it is responding to climate change. I also write about the body, both in terms of illness and aging, and in response to the body politic. And because I have been writing about food and dining for 30 years as a profession, it always manages to seep into my poems as well.

Expanded bio:

Jen Karetnick is a poet, writer, lifestyle journalist, food critic, kitchen appliance tester, and educator based in Miami, Florida. Her poetry, interviews, and essays have appeared widely in *The American Poetry Review*, *Guernica*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. Her journalism has been published internationally in outlets including *The Atlantic.com*, *Business Insider*, *HuffPost*, *Miami Herald*, *McSweeney's*, *Shondaland*, and *USA Today*. Karetnick's last full-length book of poems, *The Burning Where Breath Used to Be* (David Robert Books, 2020) was a CIPA EVVY Award winner. She also has won the Tiferet Writing Contest for Poetry, Split Rock Review Chapbook Competition, Hart Crane Memorial Prize, and Anna Davidson Rosenberg Prize, among many other honors, and been awarded first prize for food and travel writing from the Association of Food Journalists, Gourmand Cookbook Awards, North American Travel Journalists, and Society of Professional Journalists. She is co-founder and managing editor of *SWWIM Every Day*, the only online daily poetry publication that raises the voices of women-identifying poets. Karetnick is the author/co-author of 21 books, including 11 books/chapbooks of poetry (two forthcoming), four cookbooks

(including *Raw Food/Real World*, featured in the Netflix documentary *Bad Vegan*), and four guidebooks. She holds two MFAs, one in poetry from University of California, Irvine, and one in fiction from University of Miami. Born and raised in New Jersey, Jen lived on the remaining acre of the historic homestead of Miami's first postmaster with her husband, two children, a variety of rescue animals, and fourteen mango trees for 20 years. She now lives with her husband, two miniature dachshunds, and four cats in a restored 1920s Tudor house in El Portal, a designated bird sanctuary.

Website:

<https://jkaretnick.com/>

Social Media:

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/jenkaretnick/>  
[https://www.instagram.com/lil\\_nuts\\_minidachshunds](https://www.instagram.com/lil_nuts_minidachshunds)  
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