

*Melons***Carol Pearce-Worthington**

I cut my thumb on a green melon. It bleeds a little. It hurts a little. It hurts a little more. One morning a red mark goes from my thumb halfway to my elbow. I put a bottle of cold water in my backpack and walk to the nearest emergency room where I sit on a gurney listening to my iPod. A woman injects anesthetic into my thumb and between my thumb and on the tip of my thumb and in my knuckle and at the base of my thumb and around my thumb and underneath my thumb and beside my thumb. Can you feel anything now? she asks. I am afraid to say yes. I am afraid to say no. I tell her I will confess to anything.

forgotten hat

in the waiting room—

still winter

CAROL PEARCE-WORTHINGTON, the writer of this haibun (a short prose text and haiku), is a writer-editor in the Department of Medicine at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. A former actress, singer, and dancer, she earned her BA at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, and her MFA at Villanova University in Villanova, PA. She holds a certificate in medical writing and editing from the University of Chicago. The second-place winner in the 2007 Betty Drevniok International Haiku Competition, she has published poetry in FreExpresSion, Haiku Canada, Haiku World, Moonset, WorldHaikuReview.com, and Haigatoday.com. She is the winner of a Langston Hughes poetry award, a Poetry Society of America annual award, and a Deer Valley national fiction competition. Her children's books and adult fiction and nonfiction, often featuring her whimsical watercolor art, are available online at lulu.com. She reports that three of her haibun were recently selected to appear in Contemporary Haibun, Volume 10, the latest anthology from Red Moon Press dedicated to the best haibun (haiku and complementary painting) and haiga written in English from around the world.