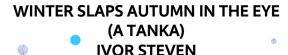
THE DIVER JACINTA ORILLO

As you descend into the depths of the ocean, you may fear the darkness beneath you. You're not alone. I'm down here...



THE CYCLES OF LIFE APRIL BARAGWANATH

Stars bright, a winters night. The air is cold but love is warm. Hearts delight, everything is alright. Beware the coming storm.



Time shortens in stride
Autumn leaves pepper the ground
Winter slaps the sky
Midday sun closes her eyes
Naked trees calmly survive



MEMORY SMELL SERA JONAS JAKOB

That aftershave
Plunges me back into nostalgic revulsion
On edge
Muscles tensing
Want to be away
I flee
From remembering
From him

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2023 WINTER SOLSTICE CHALLENGE



a story in 22 words

WINTER SOLSTICE GUENTER SAHR

This winter solstice sounds like fun, more time to drink goonies after dark on a bench in a cold, cold city park.

STONEHENGE TABITHA THOMPSON

To walk amongst the magic That is the towering stones, Breathe in the cool, wintry air Feel their calmness in your bones.

THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT JULIE RYSDALE

June 22 1963, my birthday. Losing Monopoly, I sulk. Sixty years later I win!! Steve and I play, and he lets me.

BEING GOOD MICHAEL CAINS

She just knew he would hit her again, but she didn't know why. So she sat very quietly.

Her tail still wagged.

MESSAGE FROM ABOVE KIM RANCE

I'm lost because I've been left behind by you. You say, 'It's not your time yet. Let me watch you from above.'

AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION GEOFFREY GASKILL

'I know *the* secret,' she told me with her final breath. 'Death is not the end. And my phoenix love is burning.'

WINTER'S BATTLE CRY GAIL GRIFFIN

Isolation. Loneliness imposed. Using the light in my own being, I venture out to create connections that celebrate feelings of community. Belonging.

SUSHI SOY SAUCE MICHELLE FITZGERALD

100 tiny plastic fish tumble from the butter compartment of an empty refrigerator.

Post-it note reminders line her walls.

Dementia lives here.

MY STORY REH CHAUD

I have no emotions or desires. I live life motionless. People around me pity me. I was loved once, unconditionally but now ...



Always to exist here within and around, But they are not meant to be found, As they need to prepare below underground.

A PALE EVENING ROSE SANDRA ANN JOBLING

A pale ghost, I become light when shadows stretch into darkness. Drink the perfume. I'm an intoxicating, primrose delight when darkness arrives.

EYES ON THE HORIZON KERSTIN LINDROS

After sitting and waiting his turn, he's joining the line-up. Watching. Hoping to catch that wave, his first in front of Belle.

BESPOKE MARION JACOB

Words are strong they build up they tear down they embrace they push away they enable they destroy we repent rethink restore







