

TRYSTING TREE OF DAYVILLE

There's a tree on that hill
where they'd meet after school
and swing above town
and break all the rules...

—whispered among the rocks and grasses

After the whip-crack of seven rifles
And after the memorial service when
The townspeople turn away
She rides barefooted

The cottonwood rope swing
Toes skimming golden grass blades
Summer dress sweeping
The blue glass sky...

*

She swings for the mountains
Cool fingers feeling down side canyons
Yellow pines & alpine blossoms
Her husband's skin...

Men who knew him, all have gone,
Junipers shrug where they stood...
Her children, too, moved on
No sound fills their room...

*

She swings forward:
The cottonwood shimmers
A whole universe returns, sage-tinctured
Luminous as the river's breath...

She swings back: The ropes go slack:
Her house Their school The town
It all spreads out... The desert crackles:
It rises through her knees

And leaves through her eyes,
Like the last time she saw him,
Their hands intertwined
One life leaving the other
Holding on...

“Street literature or broadsides began in the 16th century and continued until the mid-19th century as a type of printing of large printed sheets of paper, designed to be plastered onto walls. By the mid 19th century, the advent of newspapers and inexpensive novels resulted in the demise of the street literature broadside. Today broadsides have been taken over by many small presses and publishers as a fine art offshoot of their work.” Wikipedia

In celebration of **Poetry Month** and as part of a larger literary installation you can expect a new poem about the first of every month. Soon I'll have a map with other locations where you can find other street poems, like geo-caching for poetry.

For more information about the local poetry & art scene—

The Lane Literary Guild: www.laneliteraryguild.org
The Oregon State Poetry Association: www.oregonpoets.org
The Oregon Arts Alliance: www.oregonartsalliance.org

A copy of the 6 prior poems I published for the poem caching project may be found on my website:

www.utteredchaos.org.

Scot Siegel: *Skeleton Says* is available at independent bookstores in Portland, Oregon, through Finishing Line Press (www.finishinglinepress.com), and through Amazon. Signed copies of the book may be ordered by mailing a \$15 check to Scot Siegel, 15450 Boones Ferry Road, #9-145, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

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