

Twenty-Three Haikus  
*for Virginia on the occasion of our twenty-third wedding anniversary*

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| <p>1.<br/>You came to my room<br/>With sunlight and nectarines<br/>I followed you home</p> <p>3.<br/>Walking in the rain<br/>Water bouncing off the road<br/>Melting paper bags</p> <p>5.<br/>Concert in Amsterdam<br/>You fainted from the heat<br/>I carried you away</p> <p>7.<br/>Your whistle's too loud!<br/>The sound carries for miles<br/>I come when you call</p> <p>9.<br/>You ask me to wait<br/>While you tie your shoe laces<br/>And inspire a song</p> <p>11.<br/>Nurturing children<br/>Two sons bigger than both of us<br/>They shine with your light</p> | <p>2.<br/>Sointula boat house<br/>Ravaged by a cold-sore fever<br/>I kissed you anyway</p> <p>4.<br/>Handcuffs and bail bonds<br/>Justice of the peace perplexed<br/>No film in the camera</p> <p>6.<br/>Passports and visas<br/>We choose the same direction<br/>Traveling the world</p> <p>8.<br/>The curve of your neck<br/>As your skin reflects moonlight<br/>As seen from above</p> <p>10.<br/>The cat makes you sneeze<br/>You react like a lion<br/>A Leo times two</p> <p>12.<br/>Your hair on the pillow<br/>It catches the morning light<br/>Tinted with auburn</p> |
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13.  
Lingerie laid out  
You untangle fishnet stockings  
The snap of elastic

15.  
Red Convertible  
White sand and abstract palm trees  
Together in Maui

17.  
A toss of your head  
Hair flying past my face  
The smell of wild musk

19.  
The smell of fresh bread  
The sounds you make in the kitchen  
Food for thought

21.  
Dancing by my side  
The music becomes louder  
We dance through the night

14.  
Subconscious imagery  
Eyebrows furrowed in concentration  
The smell of turpentine

16.  
Midnight fireworks  
You catch what I drop  
A juggling duo

18.  
One more time  
Deep forest plays over and over  
It never gets boring

20.  
No need to explain  
A comfortable silence  
You know what I'm thinking

22.  
Lying beside you  
Your breathing slows and deepens  
I am part of your dream

23.  
Twenty-three haikus  
Written for my valentine  
It's easy to love you