


2011

Creation Story

Mara Faulkner OSB

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/pms>

 Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#), and the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Faulkner, Mara OSB (2011) "Creation Story," *PoemMemoirStory*. Vol. 11, Article 14.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.library.uab.edu/pms/vol11/iss2011/14>

This content has been accepted for inclusion by an authorized administrator of the UAB Digital Commons, and is provided as a free open access item. All inquiries regarding this item or the UAB Digital Commons should be directed to the [UAB Libraries Office of Scholarly Communication](#).

Mara Faulkner, OSB

CREATION STORY

For the girls and women of Afghanistan

In the beginning, before learning was squeezed small, prettily packaged and tagged,
and forced to sated students, the spoon grating against clenched teeth,
the children of Ireland were starving, having been forbidden
the old stories and the magic of words that lilted like jigs and reels.

They were, after all, barely human, potato eaters,
white niggers whose barbaric brogue murdered the fine English tongue,
receptacles too crude for poetry.

Hungry themselves, brave priests came in the night to the classrooms
of hedgerow and ditch. In whispers, taught Chuchalain,
taught Jesus Christ, taught Shakespeare.

Their mouths green with the succulence of words, they taught barefoot children
to break the iron shackles of law. Amidst the gibbering of Empire, where prison bars grew
like starveling trees, in the cold rain, in the dark,

there was paradise.