

POETRY | SPRING 2022

## Conjoined

By Anne Corey

My sister and I

had two heads

and one body.

We shared everything

except our hearts.

We were not the same person though:

She loved loud colors    cerulean and magenta stripes

on her half of our shared torso

satin ribbons to encircle her neck

In a mirror I have seen                    her crimsoned lips

I wore muted tones on mine

cool grays, faded roses

a soft sleeve hugging my arm

She was talkative

everyone was her friend

I wanted stillness

When they said they could separate us

it was our choice--

no one could predict the outcome:

each alive with half a body

both dead with one body in the morgue

one not dead with a head and a heart  
two legs, two arms  
and all the rest  
and one gone—decapitated and lost  
I am awake now  
but my eyes are closed.  
I don't know who I am,  
which I am.  
And if she is gone,  
why did they choose me?  
If I am gone  
who am I?  
I breathe slowly  
gripping her hand  
and praying.

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**Bio: Anne Corey is a teacher, writer, and artist living in New York's Hudson Valley. She has a PhD in Educational Theater from New York University. Her work has appeared in a number of publications, both in print and online, including "Sinister Wisdom" and [JewishFiction.net](http://JewishFiction.net)**

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