



Joan Gelfand

## Valentine's Day

Cupid's army woke up  
On the wrong side of the bed.  
Shot a shower of arrows helter-skelter.  
Hearts were slashed, lives were razed.  
All the wrong people were falling in love.

Call it global warming, climate change.  
The darts flew willy-nilly.

Married fell in love with married,  
Single with married, old with young.  
Mothers tied yellow ribbons around baby  
carriages.  
Brides-to-be pulled the wedding veil close  
To protect from Cupid's mayhem.

Still, souls collided and worlds divided  
When Cupid struck us broadside.

We felt an ache as the small bones,  
The ones that protect heart from hurt,  
Front and back, cracked.

Pierced arrows fell limp, angled  
When Cupid turned his face askew,  
And Love, her mercurial agent, ran amok.

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Joan Gelfand has published stories, essays and reviews as well as poetry in *Poets & Writers*, *Vanity Fair*, *Kalliope*, *The Macguffin*, *The Huffington Post* and elsewhere. Her poem "Transported" was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her collections include *A Dreamer's Guide to Cities and Streams* (poetry) and *Here & Abroad* (stories).