

Tanka: Upon Finding Out the  
Colorado Springs Murderer Is a Mormon

*Hilary Brown*

I could have argued  
recipes with his mother  
over funeral  
potatoes or watched him fold  
more than his share of gray chairs  
at a fireside or  
anyone's baby blessing  
I could have nudged him  
when we told the story of  
laying down weapons of war  
are you getting this?  
I could have said, then again  
he could have nudged me  
when they spoke of musket fire,  
a Prophet's proclamation  
he could have asked me  
the same thing after each hymn  
marching as to war  
with the cross of Je e sus  
going on before  
yes, well . . .  
we've made our choices.

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HILARY BROWN {hilaryawbrown@gmail.com} was born in Salt Lake City and is the oldest of six sisters. She graduated from Utah State University and is a proud public school teacher in a border town. Her current project is a memoir written in verse detailing her personal experiences with scrupulosity. Hilary lives in Arizona with her husband, Neil, and two-year-old daughter, Audrey.