I fucked your ghost

by Heather Romero-Kornblum

I fucked your ghost

I wanted to force you back into your body,
alight the nerve endings,
trigger the muscle memory
left in our shells

I fucked your ghost to taste
what sight and sound
have stolen

to say your name again

I fucked your ghost because
afraid and alone
I already left this plane

I traversed other realms where I didn't lose you
in the most uncanny way

disheveled and hollow,
sometimes it's easier to believe you're dead

I fucked your ghost –

In another version, I made love to your ghost
tender and connected, I gazed into your eyes

But the stab of being forgotten is unbearable

I read my grief poems like an exorcism

I take the child I raised with you to appointments to process
your ghostness

I want to show him pictures of our life sometimes,
recall moments to honor who you were –
who we were

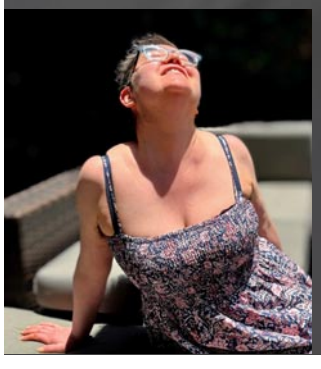
Torn between erasing his life and living in your remains,

I fucked your ghost

I fucked your ghost to leave my mark

to call you back to your mission from whatever vessel you boarded

I fucked your ghost to know
that I'm still alive



Heather Romero-Kornblum is a Los-Angeles writer known for bleeding on the page. A former academic researcher, Heather returned to poetry after several near-death experiences due to long covid. Heather captured the crumbling of her marriage in the wake of her near-death experiences in her chapbook I'M NOT OVER YOU – the 2025 Four Feathers Press Chapbook Contest winner. Heather has been a featured poet at the WordParty Poetry and Jazz monthly series, Sacred Grounds – the longest running open mic in San Francisco, Mutiny Radio, Poems under the Dome, and Four Feathers Press, among other venues. Heather has been published in the Women Who Submit anthology, Accolades, Quiet Lightning's Sparkle and Blink, Four Feathers Press monthly anthologies, The Zest of the Lemon, and Plague 2020: A world Anthology of Poetry and Art About Covid-19, among other publications. Under the pen name Heather Korn, she has two novels and three poetry collections. Visit her at heatherkornbooks.com.