

## PANTOUMS

- a. Each pantoum stanza must be four lines long
- b. the length is unspecified but the pantoum must begin and end with the same line
- c. the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines of the first stanza become the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines of the next stanza, and so on with the other stanzas
- d. the final stanza changes this pattern
- e. in the final stanza the unrepeatd 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> lines are used in *reverse* as 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines

**“Another Lullaby For Insomniacs” by Alicia Elsbeth Stallings**

Sleep, she will not linger:

She turns her moon-cold shoulder.

With no ring on her finger,

You cannot hope to hold her.

She turns her moon-cold shoulder

And tosses off the cover.

You cannot hope to hold her:

She has another lover.

She tosses off the cover

And lays the darkness bare.

She has another lover.

Her heart is elsewhere.

She lays the darkness bare.

You slowly realize

Her heart is elsewhere.

There's distance in her eyes.

You slowly realize

That she will never linger,

With distance in her eyes

And no ring on her finger.

*\*see how this goes back to the first two unrepeated lines?*

## **“Lawless Pantoum”, by Denise Duhamel**

Men are legally allowed to have sex with animals,  
as long as the animals are female.  
Having sexual relations with a male animal  
is taboo and punishable by death.

As long as the fish are female  
saleswomen in tropical fish stores are allowed to go topless.  
Adultery is punishable by death  
as long as the betrayed woman uses her bare hands to kill her husband.

Saleswomen in tropical fish stores are allowed to go topless,  
but the gynecologist must only look at a woman’s genitals in a mirror.  
The woman uses her bare hands to kill her husband,  
then his dead genitals must be covered with a brick.

The gynecologist must only look at a woman’s genitals in a mirror  
and never look at the genitals of a corpse—  
these genitals must be covered with a brick.  
The penalty for masturbation is decapitation.

A look at the genitals of a corpse  
will confirm that not much happens in that region after death.  
The penalty for masturbation is decapitation.  
It is illegal to have sex with a mother and her daughter at the same time.

To confirm what happens during sex,  
a woman’s mother must be in the room to witness her daughter’s deflowering,  
though it is illegal to have sex with a mother and her daughter at the same time.  
It is legal to sell condoms from vending machines as long as

a woman’s mother is in the room to witness her daughter’s deflowering.  
Men are legally allowed to have sex with animals—  
why it’s even legal to sell condoms from vending machines, as long as  
everyone’s having sexual relations with a male animal.