

LOVE IS LOUDER
A Collection of Short Fiction
By Susan Lee Hahn

The seven stories in this collection shift the storytelling paradigm from the traditional Male Myth (*confront and conquer*) to the life-affirming Female Myth (*gather and grow*). These female protagonists of all ages ignite the spirit of collaboration and compassion as they confront their challenges and support each other. Laced with humor, heart, and a hint of Magic Realism, the collection as a whole celebrates the triumph of love over hate, of hope over fear.

In the title story/novella, **Love is Louder** depicts the downfall of a sociopathic celebrity cult leader who has eroded the soul of society from a platform of lies, rage, and bullying. He hosts cathartic music/media extravaganzas, which are fueled by subliminal brainwashing and culminate in a collective ‘scream therapy’ experience. A subculture known as the ‘Silent Suzies’ plot to overthrow him using love instead of hate as four of their unsuspecting champions reveal their roles in his demise. (39,035 words)

In My Pocket is a whimsical and spiritual tale about a twenty-something *Dreamer* whose immigrant parents have returned to India to care for her dying grandmother and the challenges she faces as she starts her life alone. When she discovers the room key to a luxury hotel in the pocket of an expensive raincoat that she tries on at an upscale department store, her ingenuity kicks in and she reinvents her life as she honors her ancestors and revisits her memories of her family. (7,053 words)

Pearls is about a precocious nine-year-old named, Pearl who discovers that she can see fifteen minutes into her future the year her father *disappears*, but is really being held to testify at a mobster’s trial, which he refuses to do in order to keep his family safe. Pearl retreats into her imagination where she finds her resilience, her power, and this uncanny gift. She invents Future Self to help her cope with his absence, confront the bully, and finally reunite her family. A recurring dream of a dying old woman reveals how far this gift stretches into her future. (9,477 words) **Also a feature film*

Wives Without Borders is a dark romantic comedy about a newly heartbroken and nearly forty-year old woman who poses as a psychic medium to meet eligible widowers. She falls in love, but soon gets derailed when she sees her love interest’s dead wife in her kitchen one night claiming that, ‘Dr. Charming’ actually killed her. (20,537 words) **Also a TV pilot*

Newly widowed and in the throes of Menopause, Myra transforms her life when she invents **Myra’s Magic Hot Sauce**, a condiment that relieves hot flashes, tastes great with hot chicken, and often causes unexpected orgasms. Myra joins forces with her ambitious niece to market the product and make a difference in the world. The true magic is the way she transforms her life and learns to love every moment again, even without her husband. (7,717 words)

Goddesses of the Round Table pays homage to the women of Greek mythology as Gaia (Mother Earth) assembles a meeting of twelve goddesses with the goal of figuring out a way to save the planet. Their discourse gives way to some unexpected trickery (pre-pandemic), which illuminates the desperate measures needed to slow the demise of the planet. (6,179 words)

A Womb With A View ends on an optimist note as a pair of boy/girl twins share a final conversation in utero before they’re about to be born, knowing they will forget everything from their past lives and any glimpses of the future they may have. As their new lives stretch ahead of them, it’s the moment that in front of them that counts, as always. The view from here resounds with hope, love, and promise. (2500 words)