

2019 MCC Creative Writing Contest

First Place - Poetry Category

"The Doe" by Rachel Showers

The doe leaps through the brush with fervent fright.
Her cloven hooves pound against the snow.
A bang rings out in the dead of night.
She doesn't dare face her foe.

Branches claw at her matted fur.
Fatigue plagues her body and mind.
Shots whizz past her in a blur.
To any path of safety, she is blind.

The moon shines down through the trees.
A bullet pierces her hip.
Her fallen form is touched by a breeze.
Her life force fades at a steady drip.

Upon her, a dark figure descends.
It takes her into its arms.
It says to her, "you are not at your end."
The figure protects her from harm.

Her corporeal form is left for the hunter to claim.
In a sunny meadow, her spirit runs free,
But this tranquil place is not the same.
From this reality, she must flea.

As a bear, she returns,
Stronger than ever before.
From her past, she has learned.
Her resolve is unshakeable at its core.

When she sees the hunter again, she isn't afraid,
no longer running from her fears.
She charges him and scares him away.
She is safe from him for the rest of her years.