



Robbed

Susan BURCH

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Title IX Press

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Cover: Stephen Korrita

First Published in 2022 by Title IX Press
Ohio, USA

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Thank you to my husband, Bill, my daughter, Sierra, and all of my family and friends who were there for me when this happened, especially Julie Bloss Kelsey, who listened to me whine for a year.

Thank you to Bryan Rickert and Robin Smith for their generous blurbs, and to Lori A Minor for giving this mini-chapbook life despite her ongoing health issues.

Thank you to Julie Bloss Kelsey and to Bona M. Santos for pre-reading these haiku and providing feedback. And a big thank you to Stephen Korrita for designing the cover.

*All of the haiku in this book are based on my real life
experience working as a pharmacy tech at a local pharmacy,
during a robbery.*

alien arms a man in black takes me hostage

Munch painting realizing the scream was mine

ice sculpture I freeze in place

Santa Claus
the pharmacist fills his sack
with drugs

bloody knife knowing I could die

telling myself it will be over (mon)soon

unwinding his tentacles he lets me go

manwich moon
my husband & daughter hug me
for dear life

the next day a tetanus shot of reality

reliving the horror incident report

flibbertigibbets my boss never calls to check on me

stolen pills
robbed of the colleagues
I thought were friends

the only work I do for a year therapy

Orion sky they catch the robber robbing again

thankful to be alive dandelion sun

"Full of vivid and abstract imagery, Robbed is a rabbit hole that instantly sucks you into its narrative of traumatic experience. With her distinct voice and unique style, Susan Burch punctuates her journey with insightful and emotional senryu that grip us until the very end."

-Bryan Rickert, co-editor of Failed Haiku Journal of English Senryu

"The strength of this collection lies not solely in the quality of Burch's senryu, which she is well-known for, but in her ability to draw the reader along the arc of an underlying story, allowing readers to co-experience (from a position of safety) each dissociative, surreal, and all-too-real moment of the traumatizing event that inspired this chapbook."

- Robin Smith, Co-Chief Editor at Whiptail and Associate Editor at Sonic Boom