Then the sign: WARNING, NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY became an object of beauty, when cast as prop to the black bird perched center stage on the rim of a curling wrought-iron chair.

before it dropped to hop near the edge of a pool. Its presence transforming concrete to an eggshell hue.

When the crow surprised the white eucalyptus the eager tree raised its branches to a sky recently resigned to standard mid-day blue but suddenly deepened to the dark, demanding silhouette

Now the night is reeling the acre leveled a condo framed and a black bird lies dead on the roadside.

When dirt and stone defined this acre the breeze off the rail ties smelled of as and mustard grass.

Night creatures scurried, moon in their eyes while an owl's call woke us to stars holding course worke us to stars holding course in the sky.

I watched you flirt with the girl behind the counter while she smiled, nervously refolding perfectly folded napkins

you smelled of pine.

In a nested dent of metal awning swaying outside the library door, a wren is calling its mate. Flawless, she waits toes curled on the rim of the garden gate before singing her reply.

Nesting Season

to1 A

#### A Lone Crow's Improvisational Theater

## To the creator of random beauty:

was a reassuring sign

from a blustering mess

assessing the world

The black crow

of red leaves

against a storm soaked sky

thank you for dropping by

Please recycle to a friend!

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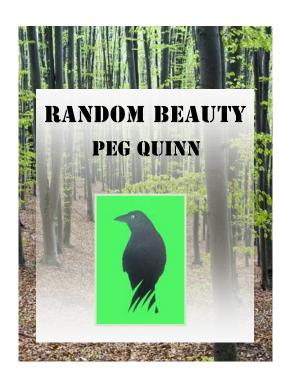
Cover art by Peg Quinn, *Crow*Visit Peg Quinn Murals on Facebook

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RANDOM BEAUTY
PEG QUINN © 2014





# Acknowledgments

#### "The Crow's Calling"

A Bird Black As The Sun, California Poets on Crows and Ravens, Green Poet Press, 2011

#### "A Lot"

The Independent News, ca. 2000

### The Crow's Calling

A bird moved

as if a black hole shaped like a crow was strutting a path across bright playground grass

before rising leisurely at an angle to observe from the perch of a stark eucalyptus

to caw forth a sermon determined inspired as a priest on a foreign mission

ignoring the fact of our language difference.