



Of Covenants

C. Kubasta

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C. Kubasta, please don't take offense as we make reference to, ahem, country music in reviewing your fantastic new collection, *Of Covenants*. The plainspoken, country-road cadence and homespun themes lean to AM, not FM, and yet the words, sounds, and rhythms are high-beam, A-team poetry. The author of another collection of poetry, *All Beautiful & Useless*, and a couple of chapbooks, Kubasta is a small-town Wisconsin native with an MFA from Notre Dame. She now teaches at Marian University in Fond du Lac, WI.

The Covenant of Traffic Laws

*We call them country stops, these rolling stops. My brother once told me
not to wear out my turn signal on the back roads.*

*In the left-turn-only lane, I rarely signal. It is the left-turn-only lane.
Turning right, I swing wide, crossing the dotted line.*

The fricative's malcontents: lips, teeth & tongue.

*When "improperly signaling a lane change," I think
I am one step closer to death. But then I think
my whiteness protects me. How dare I think that, I think,*

I think, how dare I not think that.

MATT SUTHERLAND (November/December 2017)

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