



Kelly Pilgrim-Byrne

Belly Envy

↳ **Belly Envy** ↲

Searching for infertility cures

Google returns a bonus search box:

The trick of the tiny belly.

But I want a belly-full

a rounded, heaving, stretch-marked

globe of a belly,

life teaming underneath

a thinning skin.

Not a bonus box

to store my yearning in

whilst my stomach shrinks

to a wrinkled empty sac.

I want to puke every morning

and still grow.

And whilst I'm at it,

I want Google to get rid of Sylvia Plath

and her O so *Barren Woman*.

I want her madness to stop stealing my show.

↳ Seeking Surrogate? ↵

If I gave my damaged eggs
to a mighty Emperor,
would they drop down gentle
on his feet like a Fabergé?

Would they sink into the folds
of his feathered brood pouch,
withstand the three-month-chill
on the edge of the world,
crack open slightly,
tumble to earth, renewed?

If I did that, would they
recognise my call,
collecting them home?

↩260907 ↩

The slice of her abdomen

the slick and slip, pull and tug

your quivering arrival

delivers the (other) mother

Author Bio

Kelly lives in Perth, Western Australia. She has a BA Arts and a Postgraduate Diploma (Creative Writing) from Curtin University. Her poetry has been published in print and online journals. Her first collection of poetry, *People from Bones* (with co-author Bron Bateman) was released in the UK and Australia in June 2002 (Ragged Raven Press, UK). Her poem, 'Venus of Willendorf' was selected for the anthology *Best Australian Poetry 2009* (UQP). Kelly's fiction has appeared in *Blithe House Quarterly* (USA), *Tarpaulin Sky* (USA), *Australasian Anthology of Short Stories*, *Piping Shrike*, *Sitelines* and *Dotlit*.

Citation: Pilgrim-Byrne, K. 2010. 'Belly Envy'. *Polari Journal*, 2 (October 2010), www.polarijournal.com/resources/Pilgrim_Byrne-Belly-Envy.pdf (accessed <insert date>).