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### Poem by Lynn Domina



### Nativity Scene

*after Beryl Cook*

No one has told the child  
he is  
naked, so he stretches his absurd arms  
toward floating cherubs. He is  
huge, unnatural. His weighty thighs would cascade  
over my hands if I tried to hold him,  
though his mother looks unfazed,

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propping him on her knees as if oblivious  
to messages of his divine  
paternity. Everyone—angels, baby, mother—  
flashes red hair, which I dislike, as I dislike  
their blank expressions and poor  
muscle tone. I chastise myself  
for my harsh judgment, vow  
to love at least the sheep, the hungry  
ox, the curious donkey. Not one creature  
gazes out toward me, solitary  
observer, fearful  
of their lighthearted play.

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### Art Information

- “[A Flock of Winged Cherubs in the Sky, One Holding a Martyr's Palm](#) [4]” © Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo; public domain.



Lynn Domina is the author of two collections of poetry, *Corporal Works* (Four Way Books, 1995) and *Framed in Silence* (Main Street Rag, 2011). She is the editor of a collection of essays, *Poets on the Psalms* (Trinity University Press, 2011). Her recent work appears or is forthcoming in *Nimrod*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and other periodicals and anthologies. She currently serves as creative writing editor at *The Other Journal* and is head of the English Department at Northern Michigan University.

**Source URL:** <https://www.talkingwriting.com/nativity-scene>

### Links:

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[2] <https://www.talkingwriting.com/tw-issue-themes/writing-and-faith>

[3] <https://www.talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/featured-poetry>

[4] [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A\\_Flock\\_of\\_Winged\\_Chерubs\\_in\\_the\\_Sky,\\_One\\_Holding\\_a\\_Martyr%27s\\_Palm\\_MET\\_SF-1975-1-486.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_Flock_of_Winged_Chерubs_in_the_Sky,_One_Holding_a_Martyr%27s_Palm_MET_SF-1975-1-486.jpg)

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