

Saved

Sheri Lindner

This is how it happens:
one man, a stranger,
has just completed surgery
on another man's wife,
notices the numbers
branded into the pale
underside of the husband's arm,
does not pretend he
has not seen what he has seen,
says how very sorry he is for what
his countrymen did
decades before he ever existed,
and the husband,
who, from the age of 16,
and despite all he would
hope of himself,
has had one particular
hate branded into him
as inextricably as those numbers,
feels the Universe shift
with a force not unlike that
of the first day, and
darkness is separated from
light.

SHERI LINDNER is a poet, essayist, and clinical psychologist whose works have appeared previously in Kerem, The New York Times, and a number of other literary collections. She is the author of Opening Eden's Gate, and is associate editor of Jewish Women's Literary Annual. Her poem "Return" was awarded First Place in the 2013 Nassau County Poet Laureate Society Poetry Contest.