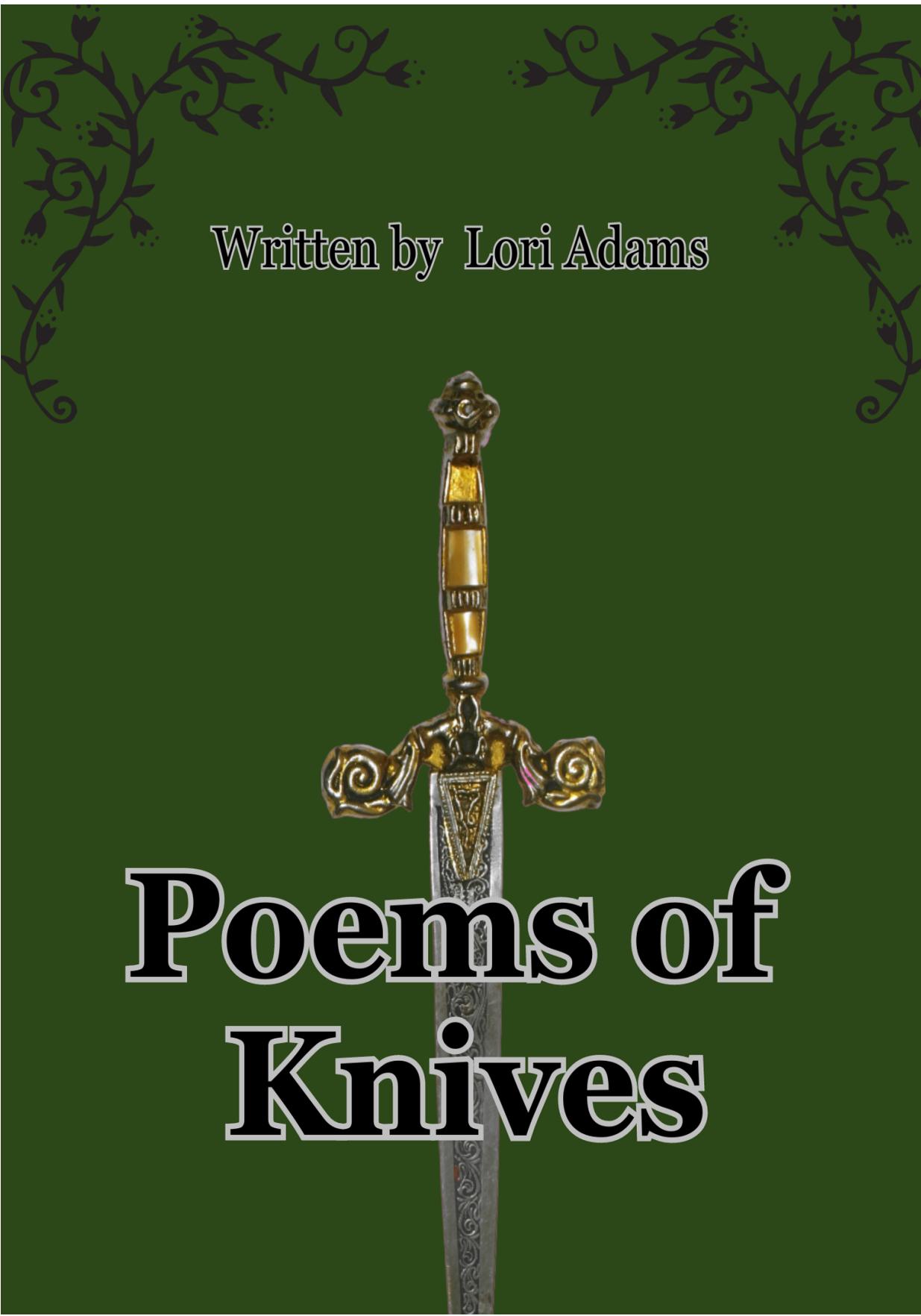


Written by Lori Adams



**Poems of  
Knives**

# Drown

I swim in waters deeper than the sea  
The choice was not mine  
For you threw me

The current is strong, but swim I do  
For I won't reach my end here  
I refuse to give that satisfaction to you

As the surface nears, chains drag me down  
I've seen the sunlight on my face  
But I wear the darkness as my crown

I continue to fight, though I'll never prevail  
I swim and I swim  
Knowing that I'm designed to fail

# Chains

My DNA isn't a helix  
It is a chain

It pulls me back  
It keeps me in line  
The more I fight  
The harder it pulls

The less I try,  
The gentler It feels  
But I cannot be happy within these shackles  
I cannot fly free as I'm tethered

My voice only echoes inside these cells  
But my heart cannot beat without the ever-twisting chains  
How can I soar when what makes me "me"  
Is also the force behind my imprisonment?

# Void

Darkness comes and I am consumed  
I reach for you  
Yet caress the air  
I fill my lungs with it  
And scream into this abyss

I listened for Light  
But darkness prevails  
Into this void, I scream for help

My lungs are tired, my body weak  
Filling them over and over  
Until collapsing, defeated and hopeless,  
I cried for you, but the darkness consumes the sound  
Yet I dry my tears and try again  
Knowing that I remain unheard.

# If

If I was then a boy  
They would have listened to me  
If I was then a boy  
They would have let me be

If I was a man  
I could hold the world in my hands  
If I was a man  
I would talk and all would understand

But I was a girl  
They plugged their ears and did not try  
I was a girl  
My wings were clipped before I could fly

I am a woman now  
The world's held beyond my reach  
I am a woman  
For my voice to carry on, I beseech