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#10 IN OUR DIS/ABILITY SERIES

## FROZEN CHARLOTTE

by ELIZABETH TESSIER

### Parkinson's

My strings pulled tight  
by a jaunty hand a hiccup in my shoulder  
just enough to keep my mind bound  
from finding focus photobomb  
so words can't gather shelter  
with their friends thumb burp  
and shade but shadow  
like strokes of paint ungainly  
but only signify fie  
one dimension hip blink  
reality interrupted  
as flat as shoe- tap  
that I avoided all these float  
years now my body pulls me in  
my mind used to flock  
like Socrates' hemlock talk soul  
pulled free of the body  
but now new-rooted it  
controls my thoughts neck-wink  
jerks unwieldy plaster- faced doll  
pulls my arm up  
behind my back please  
like an arrest stop  
my own marionette.

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## FROZEN CHARLOTTE

ELIZABETH TESSIER



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ELIZABETH TESSIER is from Hamilton, Ontario. She has a BA in English and an MA in Religious Studies, both from McMaster University. Her work is also informed by her 30 years working in Hamilton museums and her current life with early onset Parkinson's.

She has previously published in *Hamilton Arts & Letters* and in *Evenings on Paisley Avenue: Seven Hamilton Poets* (Hidden Brook Press, 2014). Her self-published collection, inspired by her years at Dundurn Castle, *The Words They Cannot Say*, was edited by her friend and mentor Marilyn Gear-Pilling and includes photos taken for the work by Jeff Tessier, her very supportive husband. Together they have four wonderful kids.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

YVONNE FELIX is a Public and Community Artist who expresses both the physical and metaphysical experiences of a non-visible disability. Yvonne's work focuses not on the object itself but the environment and engagement that occurs in its presence. Collaboration and community input is key to her ability to successfully create works that represent the audience. Connection to a work can only be achieved through empathy which then allows for awareness and opportunities to advocate.