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### Poem by Cindy Veach



## Irreconcilable Differences

After thirty years in a country of two  
I'm learning to unknow him—

the contour of the fatty tumor  
under his left armpit, soft

as a breast. Topography of the mole  
on his inner thigh. Our tongues

## Irreconcilable Differences

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have reached an impasse. All coordinates  
are lost—no metes and bounds, no

neatline, parallel, plat, plot, meridian.  
Now, as I approach the final checkpoint

I must keep the map  
of this new country clear in my head

because the guard is going to ask me the reason—  
*What is your reason?*

It's always the same for them.  
Every day they ask and stamp.

The border gate opens like sesame.  
I'm permitted one fork, spoon, knife;

one cup, one plate.

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### Art Information

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Cindy Veach's poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Poet Lore*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Journal*, and elsewhere; her work is forthcoming in *Agni* and *Nimrod*. Her first poetry collection, *Gloved Against Blood*, is forthcoming from CavanKerry Press. She coedits *Vox Mom* for the *Mom Egg Review* and is a frequent workshop instructor at the Massachusetts Poetry Festival. She manages fund-raising programs for nonprofit organization and lives in Manchester, Massachusetts.

For more information visit: [Cindy Veach's website](#) [5] or follow her on Twitter [@cindy\\_veach](#) [6].

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