

### [Irreconcilable Differences](#) [1]

March 13, 2017 [Featured Poetry](#) [2]  
[Borders](#) [3]

### 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

Published on Talking Writing (<https://talkingwriting.com>)

---

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.

---

### Art Information

- "[Joy](#)" [4] © Jill Slaymaker; used by permission.



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].

**Source URL:** <https://talkingwriting.com/irreconcilable-differences?page=0>

## Irreconcilable Differences

Published on Talking Writing (<https://talkingwriting.com>)

---

### Links:

- [1] <https://talkingwriting.com/irreconcilable-differences>
- [2] <https://talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/featured-poetry>
- [3] <https://talkingwriting.com/tw-channels-and-categories/borders>
- [4] <http://jillbslaymaker.com/earlydrawingsFrameset.htm>
- [5] <http://www.cindyveach.com>
- [6] [https://twitter.com/cindy\\_veach](https://twitter.com/cindy_veach)