



## Something Evergreen Called Life: *Selected Poems*

Rania Mamoun

### ABSTRACT

Two poems on the experience of womanhood and exile

### KEYWORDS

*Motherhood, exile, fear, desire*



New articles in this journal are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 United States License.



This journal is published by [Pitt Open Library Publishing](#).

**POEMS FROM:  
SOMETHING EVERGREEN CALLED LIFE**

14

winter I loved  
curled around mother  
making tea on the stove at the room's center  
  in rapture  
I watched the embers' slender flame  
turn yellow to orange  
  to red  
nuzzling like a cat at mother's lap  
looking for warmth  
but wanting love  
  more

now  
in exile's bleak winter  
    with cold set in my bones  
    and mother's stove gone  
the tea has lost its taste  
embers their glow  
  everything  
reduced to grey  
like those ashes  
heaped in the grate

    with mother gone  
    life's colors pale  
and ever since my heart  
thirsts for love

(3 April 2020)



*Diane Samuels*

15

glint of water on the river's skin  
pleasure glittering my daughter's eye  
face of mother beaming love  
merry dance of light on the glass rim thought  
lighting up the brain  
a silver handle shining within reach  
    all the radiance in my life  
is powerless to cancel  
my fear that day  
age five  
sheltering under the bed  
after one glimpse of the drawn blade come to cut  
me  
for fear some casual sin  
perhaps  
committed in youth  
would bring disgrace on the tribe's honour  
    they bridled my desire  
and since the age of five I live  
a permanently stifled life  
    (4 April 2020)



*Diane Samuels*

**Rania Mamoun**

*City of Asylum*

**Yasmene Seale (trans.)**