

Feminizing Poetry
The Life and Times of Jomie Leung



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Jomie Leung is breaking ground with a new ‘feminized’ style of poetry. It is neither feminist nor traditionally romantic in the style of 19th century women poets. Her forthcoming book *Poem Was Born in Hong Kong* is a fresh piece of work which explores the perceptions of the current crop of hard nosed internationalized Chinese women. It is mercifully without the feminist soap-boxing, self piteous whining or romantic cliches which make a lot of modern women’s poetry annoying. It comes as a surprise ‘interior’ view from such a hard-nosed brusque talking business type and it is unusually sympathetic to us men.

Jomie was born and raised on the Eastern Coast of Hong Kong Island back in the days when it was all fishing villages. Her father was a builder and her mother a devoted housewife with a deep appreciation of classical Chinese culture. As soon as she could walk Jomie was learning classical Chinese dance and as soon as she could talk she was learning to recite classical Chinese poets like Li Bai. At age ten she decided to learn western ballet and at sixteen she was the youngest ever ballet coach to be appointed in Hong Kong.

The stresses and strains of ballet gradually took their toll on her joints, so Jomie moved into business and later industrial consultancy but her love of poetry never left her. In 1999-2000 she started to write poems in English. After only two attempts she had an unprecedented success. Based on her second ever poem in English *Live Together* she was selected by The International Library of Poetry as one of the 33 fine poets for their anthology but she avoided the temptation to start producing poetry in bulk just to capitalize in this success. As she says

I can only write a good poem when I have a true feeling and nobody can have true feelings all the time. So I just continued in the business world and wrote when I knew I could produce something that satisfied me.

Finally she has something which satisfies her and *Poem Was Born in Hong Kong* will hit the bookshops by the end of this month. It will definitely be carried by Dymocks and a few other book chains are expected to follow suit. You can also buy it on the web at www.brinkatl.com. For a review of this book go to our book reviews section.

However Jomie’s artistic aspirations don’t end with poetry. Being easy on the eye, she has managed to pick up more than her fair share of modeling jobs. She also has a signed limited edition print run of her new visual art work selling online and she is working on a music poetry CD project with African composer Thierry Nkle Faha. Jomie waxes lyrical about working with Thierry.

It was just serendipity. Thierry knew the photographer and came in to do a sort of modeling role-play for one of the illustrations in my book. He posed as Robert Johnson the King of the Delta Blues. It was amazing. He put on the clothes, picked up the guitar and listened to the music and suddenly he was Robert Johnson. Later he read the poems and understood the feelings behind them instantly. Here was this beautiful sensitive man from a culture completely alien to me and it was like he could see inside me. Then he suggested collaboration just one instant before I was about to suggest it. A week later we were workshopping the first piece. It only took us thirty minutes and it was there, perfect. It felt so easy and natural, almost effortless.

Jomie has kindly agreed to give us a sneak preview of the work in her book. The first is *Jade of Love* which is about the way a stranger can unexpectedly have an insight into your soul. She dedicates this to her friend Michael who expressed the deeper meaning of her name on their first meeting. The second is *Full Moon* which is dedicated to everybody who has ever hoped for a better future.

Jade of Love

How can you tell my heart from one jade?

A real jade will never lose the green.

Jade of love; heart of green.

The one who can read my heart.

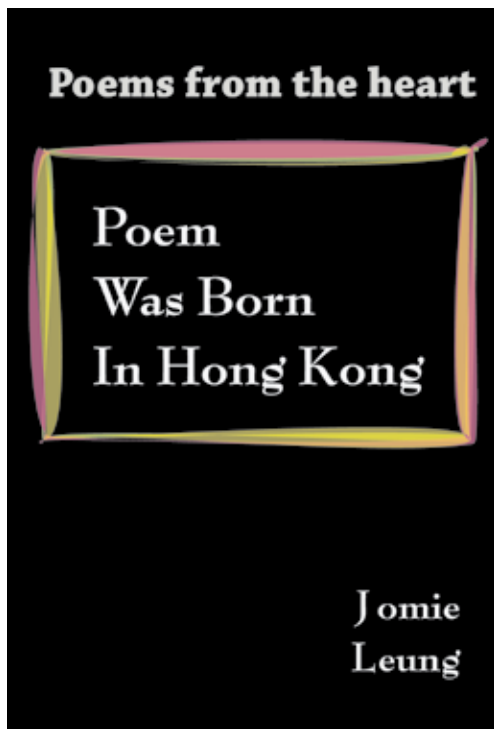
I'll never lose my green.

Because you express the jade of love.

Jade is strong; beautiful, of deep green.

You've got the meaning of J.





This Book is available at Dymocks stores in Hong Kong and also via the brink website www.brinkat1.com

Full Moon

Every time I see you, I know who you are.
We know what we are, we know who we love
Love is just around the corner.
Every time I speak to you, I know who you are
We know what we talk, we know why we laugh
Happiness is just around the corner.
Every time I touch you,
I know what we love.
We know what we feel, we know what we do.
Joy is just around the corner
We know we are falling in love
Every time you leave me, I know where you are
We know what to do, we know where we are.
Heart is just around the corner.
We are waiting for the full moon.



Brink Magazine and Jomie Leung gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of Snatch a Snack Asia Ltd., the manufacturers of Revive mineral water. Their CEO Mike Morgan goes in our Hong Kong Heroes section this issue for exercising responsible corporate citizenship. His sponsorship of Jomie's poetry is a great example of a company putting something into a neglected area of the arts and contributing to the cultural scene in the city where he does business. We suggest you read Mike's profile in Hong Kong heroes and go to his web site www.snatchasnack.com.hk to learn about his great products.