

# the HARLEQUIN

*Lorna Crozier*

## **Reasons to Question the Official Verdict of Suicide**

(“I thank you for love. I thank you for the weather.”)  
–Maria Tsvetayeva)

The spike pounded in the beam, though long enough,  
was too low. It had been there for years.  
To hang a hat, a winter jacket, a shot  
grouse meant to ripen.

After she swung the rope around it,  
she had to bend her knees to slip her neck  
inside the noose. Any time she could have  
stood up straight and stopped the choking.

In her pocket they found a small notebook  
of blue Moroccan leather, on a string  
the stub of a pencil, sharpened.

This was Yelabuga, Siberia.  
Where even the cold goes hungry.  
On the stove half a pan  
of cooked fish.

Thank you for reading! Find more at [www.theharlequin.org](http://www.theharlequin.org)